

# fort scott

A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

March 2008



Presidio Trust  
**SMWM**





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# introduction





# introduction

Cultural landscapes are geographic areas that have been shaped by human activity. They can result from a conscious design or plan. Or they can evolve as a byproduct or result of people's activities. Additionally, whatever their origin, every cultural landscape changes during the course of its existence. One reason is that the natural processes at work on a site (for example, drainage or the growth of vegetation) are dynamic. Another is that the ways in which people use a site may change over time.

Balancing change while protecting the significant characteristics and components of the cultural landscape is part of the stewardship challenge faced by the Presidio Trust at Fort Scott.

The purpose of this Cultural Landscape Assessment (CLA) is:

- To document the development of the Fort Scott cultural landscape—both the origin of its features and characteristics and the changes to these over time;
- To identify the key components of Fort Scott’s landscape—its spatial organization, topography, circulation, buildings and structures, vegetation, and water-related features; and
- To make treatment recommendations to protect the integrity of Fort Scott’s cultural landscape within the context of its current and future use.

# The Presidio of San Francisco

Fort Scott is located within the Presidio of San Francisco, a National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). The Presidio of San Francisco (Presidio) was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1962. In 1993, an update of the initial 1962 landmark nomination was completed by the National Park Service (NPS). This update identified the themes of national significance represented in the Presidio NHLD as military history, exploration and settlement, Hispanic heritage, and historic archaeology during a period of significance from 1776 to 1945. The boundaries of the Presidio NHLD were established to coincide with the boundaries of the Presidio of San Francisco.

In 1994, the Presidio was transferred to the National Park Service and became a national park. Because of the Presidio’s city-like infrastructure, its nearly 800 buildings, and its expansive cultivated forest and natural areas, funding the Presidio’s operation and long-term care was much more costly than traditional parks. In 1996, Congress devised a management and funding model unique among national parks, and created the Presidio Trust to preserve the Presidio’s resources. The Presidio Trust manages the 1,168 acres of the Presidio’s interior lands (known as Area B); this area includes Fort Scott.

The Presidio differs from most parks in two important ways: it includes six million square feet of built space, and Congress has required it to become financially self-sufficient by 2013. These conditions mean that the new park will include an unusually broad range of uses: in addition to protecting the site’s resources and serving visitors, the Presidio Trust will lease space

to commercial, institutional, and residential tenants. These conditions may require the renovation and adaptation of existing buildings and landscapes and the construction of new ones. In August 2002, the Presidio Trust Board of Directors adopted the Presidio Trust Management Plan: Land Use Policies for Area B of the Presidio of San Francisco (PTMP). PTMP provides the framework for achieving the Trust’s mission to preserve and enhance the Presidio as a financially self-sustaining national park

## Fort Scott

The PTMP divided the Presidio into seven planning areas that help the Trust guide the reuse and development decisions throughout the park. Fort Scott is one of the seven planning districts. For the purpose of defining the integrity of the landscape and making treatment recommendations, this CLA breaks the Ft. Scott planning district into four separate study areas. The general boundaries for of the study areas are: Area 1 – the key components of the original plan for Fort Scott including its Parade Grounds and barracks; Area 2 – the Batteries, including Batteries Howe-Wagner, Saffold, and Dynamite; Area 3 – the residential areas along Kobbe Avenue and Ruckman and Storey avenues; Area 4 – the recreational center that is located along the south side of Dragonfly Creek. The boundaries for the study areas are shown on the plan on page 81.

The primary period of development at Fort Scott occurred between 1891 and 1940. By the 1890s, the country, having survived a civil war and conquered the frontier West, began to seek a national identity that included an expanded place among world powers. The legacy of Manifest Destiny became what some historians have called the “new imperialism.” There was an increased emphasis on the nation’s military power, and



the improvement of military facilities, for both practical and symbolic purposes, was undertaken nationwide. It was during this period of expansion that the cultural landscape on the western portion of the Presidio the area that came to be Fort Scott was dramatically transformed. Trees that had been initially planted in the mid-1880s as part of the Presidio forest became a dominant feature in the landscape. The modernization and expansion of San Francisco's seacoast fortifications

The inclusive period beginning with National Expansion and ending before the start of World War II – 1891-1940 – constitutes the primary period during which Fort Scott's cultural landscape was established.

system and the related construction at Fort Scott resulted in new topographic features, building clusters, and roads.

Of the 30 Endicott batteries constructed as part of the San Francisco seacoast fortification system between 1890 and 1905, fifteen were located at Fort Scott. In 1909, construction began on a new command headquarters for the Coast Artillery Corps. The original phase of construction for Fort Scott (in the 1910s) resulted in four groups of features: the Parade Ground and Barracks, officer housing along Kobbe Avenue, an officer recreational area north of Kobbe Avenue, and non-commissioned officer housing along Ruckman and Storey avenues.

During the years between the two world wars there were both large scale and small scale changes to the cultural landscape at Fort Scott. The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and its

two viaducts for Doyle Drive (U.S. Highway 101) and Park Presidio Boulevard (State Highway 1) in the 1930s introduced new structures into the cultural landscape and permanently altered the spatial organization, circulation system, and views at Fort Scott. In the late 1930s, the Works Progress Administration provided funding for smaller scale projects that were directed at improving the image of the post. Among the key projects was the construction of the characteristic masonry features located in the residential and community recreational areas along Kobbe Avenue.

This inclusive period beginning with the National Expansion period and ending before the start of World War II – 1891-1940 – constitutes the primary period during which Fort Scott's cultural landscape was established. The analysis, identification of character-defining features, and recommendations for treatment in this CLA are based on recognizing this primary period of significance (1891-1940) for Fort Scott within the overall period of significance (1776-1945) for the Presidio of San Francisco NHL.

## Purpose And Goals

Fort Scott (and the larger Presidio) faces more immediate pressure for change than many of the Department of the Interior's cultural landscapes. The conversion of the Presidio from a military base into an economically self-sufficient national park has presented a new set of uses for the site and a new context for decisions about its future. Keeping the past in mind is important for two reasons. First, the Presidio is a NHL, and protecting its historic resources is an important part of the Presidio Trust's mandate. Second, the Presidio's historic character is a large part of what makes it appealing to new residents

and tenants, and this presents a strong financial incentive for its preservation and enhancement.

In the PTMP, Fort Scott is envisioned as a contemplative retreat. The Presidio Trust plans to preserve Fort Scott’s rich collection of historic buildings and designed landscape in a manner that retains the district’s contemplative setting. Preferred uses will include educational and conference facilities as well as lodging, housing, and support services. The PTMP’s strategies for achieving these goals at Fort Scott include the following:

- Restoring the Parade Ground and reestablishing it as Fort Scott’s main gathering place.
- Rehabilitating historic buildings with respect to their setting and historic cluster arrangement.
- Rehabilitating historic gardens and landscape features.
- Preserving and enhancing Dragonfly Creek and other natural resources in the area.
- Preserving and interpreting for visitors the historic batteries and coastal defense structures.
- Simplifying the road system and enhancing pedestrian connections to adjacent areas.
- Ensuring that any new construction is sited and configured to be compatible with the historic district.

Meeting the needs of Fort Scott’s future tenants, residents, and visitors will require more than simply preserving what exists at the site today. This report identifies the characteristics and features that are critical to the historic character of Fort Scott. It identifies changes that impair or threaten this historic character and makes treatment recommendations to protect the integrity of Fort Scott’s cultural landscape within the context of change that will be needed to meet the goals identified in the PTMP.

## Report Organization

This CLA is organized in three parts:

**1. Historic Periods.** This chapter examines the development of the Fort Scott cultural landscape. The history is divided into the 10 periods used in the Presidio NHLD 1993 update and documents the evolution of the Fort Scott cultural landscape from the pre development conditions to the transfer of the Presidio to the National Park Service in 1994. For each historic period, there is a summary of the key events that shaped the cultural landscape and a summary of the changes to the cultural during that period. Characteristics and features that are documented include: 1) spatial organization; 2) topography; 3) buildings and structures; 4) circulation; 5) vegetation, and 6) water features. The descriptions of past conditions are based on historic documents of the site, including photographs, maps, drawings, and written descriptions.

**2. Character-Defining Features.** This chapter provides an analysis of the development of landscape within each of the four planning areas; identifies the character-defining features within each; and provides an analysis of the integrity of these character-defining features. This information provides the foundation for the development of the treatment recommendations contained in the following chapter. The four planning areas are:

**Area 1: The Parade Ground and Barracks**

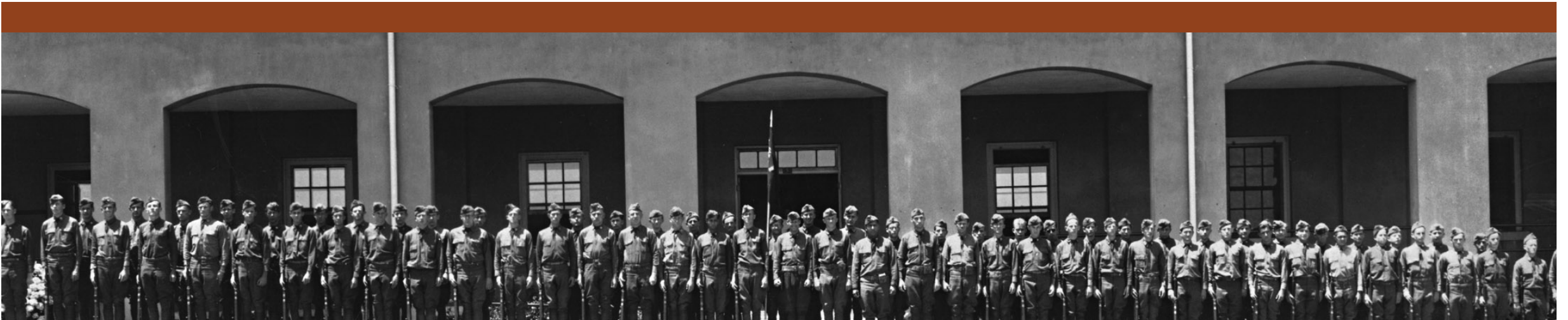
**Area 2: The Batteries (Howe-Wagner, Saffold, and Dynamite)**

**Area 3: The Residential Neighborhoods**

**Area 4: The Community Center and Dragonfly Creek**

**3. Treatment Recommendations.** This chapter provides treatment recommendations for the character-defining features identified in the previous chapter. The treatment recommendations are based on the goals established in the PTMP and follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines.

# historic periods





# historic periods

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Characteristics and features that are documented include:

- 1) spatial organization;
- 2) topography;
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- 4) circulation;
- 5) vegetation, and
- 6) water features.

The descriptions of past conditions are based on historic documents of the site, including photographs, maps, drawings, and written descriptions.

# Pre-European Cultural Landscape

Before 1776, the San Francisco peninsula was part of the territory of the Ohlone, whose numbers are estimated to have exceeded 10,000 in the coastal area between Point Sur and the San Francisco Bay. Before European settlement, the San Francisco peninsula was not a “natural” landscape – that is a landscape untouched or unaffected by man. Rather it was a “cultural” landscape shaped by the cultural beliefs and actions of the Ohlone.

The descriptions of the pre-contact landscape generally come from the records of Europeans who visited the area during the initial period of contact between the Spanish and Ohlone. While these descriptions lack the Ohlone's perspective of the landscape, they do provide information on how the area looked before it was impacted by Spanish settlement. One of the earliest observations was made by Pedro Font on 28 March 1776, the day that Juan Bautista de Anza's expedition entered the area that would eventually become Fort Scott. Font recorded the following:

. . . The commander decided to erect the holy cross, which I blessed after Mass, on the extreme point of the white cliff at the inner terminus of the mouth of the port . . . On leaving we ascended a small hill and then entered upon a mesa that was very green and flower-covered, with an abundance of wild violets. The mesa is very open, of considerable extent, and level, sloping a little toward the harbor. It must be about half a league wide and somewhat longer, getting narrower until it ends right at the white cliff. This mesa affords a most delightful view, for from it one sees a large part of the port and its islands, as far as the other side, the mouth of the harbor, and of the sea all that the sight can take in as far as beyond the farallones . . . This mesa the commander selected as the site for the new settlement and fort which were to be established on this harbor; for, being on a height, it is so commanding that with muskets it can defend the entrance to the mouth of the harbor, while a gunshot away it has water to supply the people, namely, the spring or lake [Mountain Lake] where we halted . . . I being satisfied by what I had seen, and able to testify that the place has very good advantages for the intended settlement, for it has plentiful firewood, water, and very good grass or pasturage for horses and cattle, all near by, which is the principal consideration . . . The only lack is timber for large buildings, although for huts and barracks and for the stockade of the presidio there are plenty of trees in the groves . . .

(Font 1776 from translation at Web deAnza).



# Spanish-Mexican Settlement (1776–1846)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish expanded their empire northward from Mexico and Baja (lower) California into Alta (northern) California. In 1769, during the expedition that established a presidio at Monterey, Gasper de Portola traveled north to the San Francisco Bay. Portola was followed by Juan Bautista de Anza, who in 1774 established a land route from Mexico to California. Then in 1776, Anza led 240 people, over this route from Tubac, Mexico to San Francisco, in order to establish a permanent

# settlement.

Three thousand *varas* of land were set aside for the Presidio de San Francisco, and the Presidio was constructed during July 1776. In 1793-94, the Castillo de San Joaquin was built on the bluff overlooking the Golden Gate for the purpose of guarding the entry to the bay.<sup>1</sup> The expanding presence of the British and Russians in the Pacific basin during the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century prompted the Spanish to build this fort. The bay was a strategic harbor to the Spanish presence in San Francisco (and California), and they built the Castillo to protect it. The location of the fort was dictated by this era’s defensive strategy (protecting the entrance to a harbor) and the limited range of artillery of the period. The shift from Spanish to Mexican control in 1820 had little effect on the Presidio of San Francisco. In fact, news of the transfer did not reach the Presidio until over a year after the fact. Operations at the Presidio transferred from one empire to the next with little to no impact on those serving at the post. The primary difference in terms of the cultural landscape was that the Castillo was intermittently manned by the Spanish (from 1794 to 1820) and was basically abandoned during the Mexican period (from 1820 through 1846) (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 4).

## Summary of Changes to the Cultural Landscape During The Spanish-Mexican Settlement Period

### Spatial Organization

During this period, there were only two clusters of buildings within the boundaries of the present-day Presidio of San Francisco: 1) the Castillo, located on southern point overlooking the entrance to the bay, and 2) the Presidio (Main Post), located about a mile to the east (outside of the study area of the Fort Scott Cultural Landscape Assessment [CLA]) in a location that provided protection from the prevailing winds that blew from the west and northwest.<sup>2</sup> A road or path linked these two clusters. The rest of the area was open and undeveloped.

### Topography

The Presidio and Castillo were located on the northern tip of the San Francisco peninsula. This peninsula had rocky cliffs along the Pacific coastline and sandy bluffs along the bay side. The northernmost point of the peninsula overlooked the entrance into the bay. The land where Fort Scott would eventually be built sloped towards the bayside bluffs. There was little if any modification to this topography during this period.

### Buildings and Structures

The Castillo de San Joaquin was a brick-faced adobe structure with 15 embrasures (openings in the wall through which a gun was fired). An adobe guardhouse was located in the interior of the fort. Although, the presence of the fort was considered a strategic deterrent to attack, the structure was only intermit-

tently manned and was never adequately maintained. The adobe and brick proved vulnerable to the weathering that resulted from the annual rainy seasons and to the unstable conditions of the shifting sand in the substrate.

### Circulation

A path or road developed between the Presidio and Castillo. This road followed the existing topography and was most likely located along the edge of the bluffs, on the high ground overlooking the marsh and beach to the north.

### Vegetation Features

Native vegetation communities<sup>3</sup> were altered through grazing and when trees were removed for fuel and timber. The perennial native bunch grasses and forbs,<sup>4</sup> that originally were the dominant ground cover, were eliminated through grazing and the subsequent, mostly inadvertent, introduction of annual grasses of Eurasian origins. The overgrazing of native species and the removal of trees also contributed to erosion in the landscape.

### Water Features

The water features in the Fort Scott watershed drained to the east and included seeps or springs that fed into Dragonfly Creek.<sup>5</sup> The water features were basically unaltered during this period; although they may have been utilized by livestock who grazed in the area.

- 1 The Castillo was one of the three components (Castillo, Presidio, and Mission) of the original Spanish settlement of San Francisco. Each had a distinctive function within the Spanish settlement process. The Presidio de San Francisco (today known as the Main Post) was established in 1776 and housed the garrison and supported the administrative and training operations. The Presidio was sited on a sloping terrace that provided a protected area that was close to safe anchorage in the bay. The Castillo protected the entrance into the bay. The third component of the Spanish settlement was located approximately four miles southeast of the Presidio. Here, in 1776, the Spanish built the Mission San Francisco de Asis (now known as the Mission Dolores). The Mission, seen as the instrument to “integrate” indigenous people into the greater Spanish Empire, was protected by the Presidio and supplied the garrison stationed there with fresh crops.
- 2 The Presidio was located on a relatively flat terrace that was suited for the initial layout of the Spanish-era walled compound and continued over the years to provide sufficient space for the expansion of the Main Post facilities. The Main Post, located on land that slopes down toward the bay, was sited along the edge of the natural bluff that overlooks the bay. This location served both practical and symbolic functions. It provided for views of the bay and the Golden Gate and symbolized the Spanish control of these features. This location provided convenient access to the water’s edge where there was safe anchorage for ships.
- 3 Some of the earliest information on the types of plants at the Presidio was documented by naturalists Adelbert Chamisso and Johann Eschscholtz. In October 1816, the Russian ship Rurik visited the Presidio with these two naturalists on board. Eschscholtz visited the Presidio again in 1824, from September to November, on the ship Enterprise. During these two separate voyages, Chamisso and Eschscholtz collected 82 species of California plants in or near the Presidio. Fifty four of these species have been found still growing in the Presidio. Their collections provided a sense of the plant community that existed at the Presidio prior to European settlement (Langelier and Rosen 1992: 94, 160-161).
- 4 A “forb” is a flowering plant with a non-woody stem that is not a grass.
- 5 Historically, this water feature was unnamed. In contemporary literature, it is referred to as “Dragonfly Creek,” although the source of this name is unknown. The water feature is identified as “Dragonfly Creek” throughout the Fort Scott CLA.



# Early United States Occupation (1846–60)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

In 1846, the United States took control of California from Mexico, and in March 1847, troops from the United States Army arrived at the deserted Presidio. The United States, just like Spanish, recognized the importance of the San Francisco bay and harbor in maintaining its control of California.

The Joint Board of Military Engineers and Naval Officers (of the Pacific Coast), established by Congress in 1849 to review the conditions along the Pacific Coast and to make recommendations for its defense, recommended in its final report that fortifications be built at Fort Point, Lime Point, and Alcatraz to protect the Golden Gate. This construction was part of what was known as the Third System of fortifications. This system consisted of large brick or stone forts with multiple tiers which were built on promontories and islands at “choke points to important harbor entrances” (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 7). The construction of Fort Point, at the location of the Spanish-era Castillo, was considered central to the protection of the San Francisco Bay and harbor, which in turn was the key to the protection of the entire Pacific coast. Construction of the new fort began in late 1853 and involved lowering the elevation of bluff at Punta de la Cantil Blanco (the Spanish name for the bluff where the Spanish-era Castillo was located) from 90 feet down to 15 feet above sea level (and in the process destroying any remains of the Spanish-era Castillo) so that the artillery on the lowest level or tier of the fort would be as close as possible to the water level. This change to the topography along the bluff allowed artillery in the new fort to be positioned so that cannonballs would ricochet across the surface of the water and hit enemy ships at the waterline (Thompson 1979: 10-12, NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 9, and NPS Fort Point).

## Summary of Changes to the Cultural Landscape During The Early American Occupation Period

### Spatial Organization

There were no changes to the basic spatial organization of the area between 1846 and 1860. Fort Point replaced the Castillo and was built at the same location on the south side of the Golden Gate (although at a lower elevation). Although, there was no major concentration or development in the south part of the reservation, the road system expanded to the south, with a new road from the Fort Point area to Mountain Lake.

### Topography

The topography of the bluff on the south side of the Golden Gate was altered when the elevation was lowered by 75 feet as part of the construction of Fort Point.

### Buildings and Structures

When the United States Army arrived in San Francisco, both the Presidio (located outside of the CLA study area) and the Castillo were in ruins.<sup>1</sup> The Castillo was constructed of adobe, and the combination of rains, instability of the sand substrate upon which it was constructed, and inadequate upkeep all contributed to its poor condition. It was demolished when the bluff was lowered for the construction of Fort Point.

Buildings that were added to the landscape during this period included Fort Point, the Fort Point Lighthouse,<sup>2</sup> and several small, wood-frame buildings located in a cluster to the south of Fort Point (U.S. Coast Survey 1859 and NPS 1993 Section 8: 22).

### Circulation

The transportation corridor, consisting of several paths between the Presidio and Fort Point, remained in place (U.S. Coast Survey 1859).

Additionally, there was a road or path from Fort Point south to Mountain Lake (U.S. Coast Survey 1859).

### Vegetation

The Americans continued the practices of grazing and cutting trees for fuel. The end result of this continued removal of the native vegetation cover was the destabilization of the sand dunes. By 1857, one observer described the western portion of the Presidio as “a wide area... covered by loose, dry sea-sand” that had the “aspect and character of a desert” (NPS and CLA 1993 part 5:1).

### Water Features

No alterations to the features of the watershed were shown on the 1859 Coast Survey map.

1 Six cannon that were part of the original armament of the Castillo are still located at the Presidio in various locations, including the two that are prominently displayed at the entrance to the Main Post Officer Club.

2 The Fort Point Lighthouse was one of eight lighthouses for the Pacific Coast that Congress included in its 1850 appropriation. Four of these eight were located in San Francisco (the others were at Alcatraz, the Farallon Islands, Point Bonita) giving testament to the importance of the city's harbor on the west coast. The location of the point at the north end of the peninsula (Punta de la Cantil Blanco) was strategically located for navigation. Pilots would align the Fort Point Light with the one at the Alcatraz Lighthouse to guide ships vessels over the dangerous San Francisco Bar. The first lighthouse was only in place for three months before the Army tore it down to make way for the construction of Fort Point. A second lighthouse was built in 1855. It was torn down in 1864 when the Army repaired the seawall.

# Civil War Era (1861–65)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

During the Civil War, the protection of San Francisco's bay and harbor, and the navy yard and military arsenal at Benicia were considered critical to protecting the country's commerce in the Pacific. The physical alterations to Fort Scott were limited to an increase in the number of cannon at Fort Point from 59 to 85. This action was a response to "the fear of a British move to seize California while the United States was preoccupied with the war in the east" (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 11-12).

There were no major known alterations to the cultural landscape during the Civil War.



# Indian and Military Affairs (1866–90)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

The expansion of the seacoast fortifications system at Fort Scott and the initial plantings of the Presidio forest, both of which began during this period, result in major changes to the cultural landscape that are still evident today.

## Seacoast Fortifications

During the Civil War, the Third System masonry forts, such as Fort Point, proved to be vulnerable to the increasing range and velocity of new artillery. Following the war, new strategies, in what became known as the Plan of 1870, were implemented to address these weaknesses. Although, controlling and protecting the entrance to the bay continued to be key to the strategy to protect San Francisco, Fort Point was considered technically obsolete under the Plan of 1870. “The new thinking required that guns be set in wide spaces and protected not by rigid walls but by mounds of soft, absorbent earth” (Hart 1996: 9) that would absorb the force of the incoming ordinance.

The coastal bluffs to the south of Fort Point provided strategic views of the ocean and the Golden Gate, and the bluffs to the east of the fort overlooked the entrance into the bay. Two permanent barbette batteries, constructed of brick and faced with earth, were built along these bluffs. West Battery was completed in 1873 and was located south of Fort Point on the bluff that overlooked the Pacific Ocean. East Battery was located to the southeast of Fort Point along the bluff that overlooked the bay. Work on this battery began in 1873, but its cannons were not installed for another 20 years, due to lack of funding.<sup>1</sup>

Due to budget limitations, a policy that favored isolationism, and the rapidity of technical developments in artillery, work on the sea coast fortification system ceased between 1875 and 1890. As a result, the condition of San Francisco’s earthwork fortifications, including those at Fort Scott, deteriorated due to a lack of maintenance (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 16).

## The Presidio Forest

### Context for Afforestation in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

In California, the massive immigration after the discovery of gold in 1849 resulted in an increased demand for lumber (the primary building material) and for firewood (the primary heating and cooking source), and during this period, the state’s forests were cut indiscriminately to provide for these needs. Throughout California, various large-scale, tree planting efforts during the last two decades of the 19th century altered the state’s landscape. The California Horticulturist ran an article in its August 1876 issue that observed that:

In California everything is done on a large scale if at all. Grape vines are planted by the hundreds of thousands, and wheat fields extend to thousands of acres, and the groves of the forest trees are what in the East would be called extensive forests. Of late Californians have commenced the planting of forest trees, and this, too, upon the same extended scale which marks all their operations

quoted in Groenendaal 1983: 4

The large-scale tree planting project that came to be known as the Presidio forest was a part of this experience in San Francisco. During the late 19th century, a number of projects resulted in large swaths of sand dunes and bare hillsides in the western part of the city being transformed into forests. The Presidio forest, Golden Gate Park, the Sutro Forest, and Stern Grove were all examples of these efforts.

1 The names West Battery and East Battery were unofficial since the batteries were never officially named (NPS East and West Batteries Website). Today, the remains of these batteries are known as Battery West and Battery East, respectively. Most of Battery West was destroyed during the construction of a line of Endicott-era batteries (Cranston [in 1897], Marcus Miller [in 1891], Boutelle [in 1900], and Godfrey [in 1895]). Parts of Battery East were destroyed during the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in 1933-37.

2 General Irvin McDowell is often credited with directing the development of the Presidio forest plan. However, as Edwin Thompson noted in Defender of the Gate, it is difficult to identify that he actually did so. The momentum for planting a forest on the Presidio developed during the late 1870s and early 1880s when McDowell, and his successor General John Schofield, were commanders at the post. McDowell “had a reputation for improving the appearances of military reservations” under his command (Thompson 1997: 175), and after he retired, he remained in San Francisco and became a park commissioner.

During this era, tree planting was part of a popular design philosophy that advocated forestation for a wide variety of benefits. Charles Shinn, one of the first to address horticulture and design through the lens of California's growing conditions, recommended that:

A judicious planting of tall and well foliated trees . . . breaks the wind, ameliorates the climate, saves fuels, and adds beauty to the landscape in summer and winter (Shinn 1879).

Replacing native vegetation communities, perceived as barren, dry, and harsh by contemporary eyes – with large tracts of trees was widely accepted at this time as a practical and an aesthetic improvement to the natural state of the landscape. A Brigadier General, who visited the Presidio in 1905, expressed this commonly accepted viewpoint:

The desirability, from every point of view, of covering these bleak hill sides with a forest grove is so evident that it is considered unnecessary to enter into any discussion (Thompson and Woodbridge 1991 quoted in Dames & Moore 1995: 3-2).

It was from this perspective that the plan for the Presidio forest developed.

In the mid-1860s, the open undeveloped land of the Presidio was viewed by local interests as prime real estate, and "military leaders began facing formidable pressures to relinquish major portions of the reservation." In April 1870, the Daily Alta

Californian, a San Francisco newspaper, reported on schemes to "benefit private speculators who cast covetous eyes" at the Presidio. The newspaper promoted the acquisition of the Presidio's land for a public park as a means to thwart these schemes, and Senate Bill No. 370 was introduced for this purpose. (The lands for Golden Gate Park, south of the Presidio, had recently been set aside for a park.) The Army was criticized for the "bleak" appearance of the Presidio and in response initiated a number of projects in the 1870s and 1880s that included the construction of new buildings and roads, the construction of fences and gates, and the introduction of more ornamental landscaping. The planting of the Presidio forest was the most ambitious of these efforts (NPS 1993 Section 8: 27-28).

## Major Jones Plan

In 1883, Major William Jones, a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, developed a "Plan for the Cultivation of Trees Upon the Presidio Reservation."<sup>2</sup>

Jones' idea for planting a large forest was influenced by the public's concern over the need to improve the appearance of the Presidio and possibly the earlier Senate Bill No. 370 that had proposed making the military reservation into a park. His actual plan was inspired and guided by William Hammond Hall's successful plan for the new Golden Gate Park, and Jones based the Presidio forest plan on Halls' planting principles and techniques.<sup>3</sup> Jones' plan for the Presidio forest had several pragmatic and aesthetic goals including the need to stabilize the shifting sand dunes in the area; to provide protection from prevailing ocean winds in the settled areas; to improve the appearance of the reservation in the eyes of the San Franciscans; and to create a visual boundary between the Presidio and San

Francisco.

Jones recommended trees be planted so that there would be:

A large forest on each of the three principal ridges, connected by belts along the boundary fence and through the sand-drift between Presidio and Fort Point (Jones 1883: 2).

He wrote that:

The main idea is, to crown the ridges, border the boundary fences, and cover the areas of sand and marsh waste with a forest that will generally seem continuous, and thus appear immensely larger than it really is. By leaving the valleys uncovered or with a scattering of trees along the streams, the contrast of height will be strengthened . . . The forest is, further, so disposed that there are very few points from without where its true breadth at any point can be appreciated, and it will seem to be very much larger than it is (Jones 1883: 2).

Jones envisioned his plans as an expression of the identity of the Presidio and as a symbol of the authority of the U.S. government. He suggested that:

In order to make the contrast from the city seem as great as possible, and indirectly accentuate the idea of the power of Government, I have surrounded all the entrances

with dense masses of wood (Jones 1883: 2).

Jones addressed practical matters such as protecting the young trees from grazing cattle (that still roamed unfenced in 1883); specifying the types of trees to be planted; stating how far apart to plant these trees (i.e. eucalyptus were to be planted 6 to 8 feet apart, the distance equal to the height they could be expected to grow in one year); and specifying that annual thinning should be done (to maintain the distance between trees equal to their height “so that on the whole ground about their roots will be reasonably shaded, as in nature”). Trees were to be planted within irregularly-shaped groups that followed the contours of the topography). Jones was transferred before his plan could be implemented, and the trees were often not planted nor maintained as he had specified (Jones 1883: 3, 4).

The earliest record of trees being planted on a large scale was in 1886 during the state’s first Arbor Day (26 November 1886) when school children planted 3,000 tree seedlings that had been donated by Adolph Sutro. Planting began in earnest following an 1889 appropriation by Congress, and by 1892, 329,975 trees had been planted on the Presidio. During this period, the establishment of the forest was hampered for a variety of reasons: some officers vehemently opposed the expansion of the forest (they considered the trees to be an impediment to drilling troops and a hiding place for vagrants); newly planted trees were lost from theft (people would steal them); and the number of trees that were planted varied each year was dependent on the funds available from annual appropriations.

# Summary of Changes to the Cultural Landscape During This Period

## Spatial Organization

The majority of the landscape was still open and undeveloped during this period, and structures were still clustered at Fort Point or along the bluffs. However, as the area planted with trees increased, the Presidio forest altered this sense of open space. The stands of trees became prominent physical features in the landscape, and as they grew taller, the trees altered views.

## Topography

The topography along the bluffs, overlooking both the ocean and the bay, was altered by the construction of East Battery and West Battery; the earthworks (earthen berms) of these batteries added new topographic features to the landscape.

## Buildings and Structures

East Battery and West Battery were the only major buildings and structures that were added to the landscape during this period.

There was a telegraph line that ran north from Telegraph Hill (Rob Hill) to West Battery and from there east (Hall 1871).

The wood-frame buildings located south of Fort Point were demolished following the Civil War (NPS 1993 Section 8: 22).

## Circulation

The primary access from the Main Post to Fort Point was provided by a road that developed along the edges of the marshes (in the Crissy Field area); this road is illustrated in Goddard’s 1868 Birdseye View of San Francisco.

The various roads or paths along the bluff, from the Main Post out to the point, still remained in place to provide access to this part of the peninsula (U.S. Coast Survey 1859 and 1869, Wheeler 1870, and Hall 1871).

Also, the road south to Mountain Lake remained; this road also provided access to Telegraph Hill (now known as Rob Hill) (Wheeler 1870).

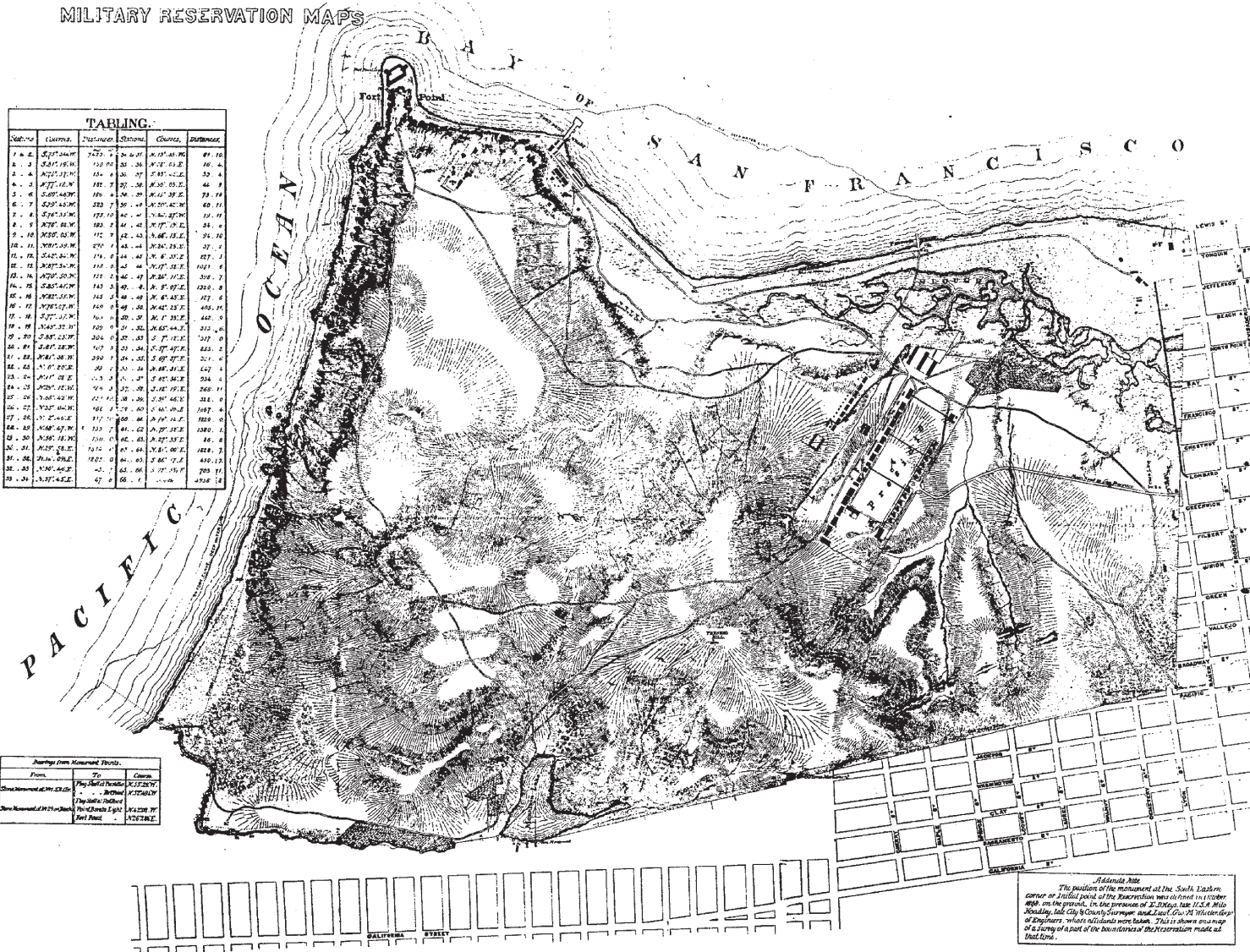
From the Telegraph Hill (Rob Hill), there was a road east to the Main Post area (Wheeler 1870).

3 The initial plans to develop Golden Gate Park, in the 1860s, were ridiculed as “a dreary waste of shifting sand hills” that would never become an attractive park. The climate and conditions in the western portion of the San Francisco’s peninsula—a long, dry season with minimal rain fall, strong winds, and unstable sand dunes—discouraged many established landscape designers, including Frederick Law Olmsted, whose solutions and design ideas were based on those appropriate to the eastern United States. Nevertheless, in 1871, under the auspices of the park’s new superintendent William Hammond Hall, work began on the development of the 1,017-acre park. Hall conceived an ambitious plan to stabilize the dunes and plant trees in Golden Gate Park based on principles he gathered from writings on similar situations in Europe and North Africa (Streatfield 1976b). Within three years, he had set out over 66,000 trees in the park. Eucalyptus, Monterey cypress, and Monterey pine were the three predominant species planted because these grew quickly and were able to withstand the peninsula’s climatic conditions. His successful methods and plan were adopted in other areas of the city, including at the Presidio where Major William Jones based his plan on Hall’s.



№ п.п.	Сторона	№ п.п.	Сторона	Сторона	№ п.п.
1	107° 45' 30"	275	2	107° 15' 30"	81
2	107° 15' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
3	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
4	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
5	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
6	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
7	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
8	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
9	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
10	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
11	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
12	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
13	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
14	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
15	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
16	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
17	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
18	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
19	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
20	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
21	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
22	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
23	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
24	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
25	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
26	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
27	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
28	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
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40	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
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42	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
43	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
44	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
45	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
46	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
47	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
48	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
49	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
50	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
51	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
52	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
53	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
54	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
55	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
56	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
57	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
58	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
59	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32
60	107° 13' 30"	130	31	107° 13' 30"	32

Bearings from Monument Points.		
From	To	Course.
Stone Monument at Mt. St. Ebr.	Flag Staff at Parthenon	N. 55° 28' W.
	" " " " " " " "	N. 57° 24' W.
	Flag Staff at Parthenon	
Stone Monument at Mt. St. Ebr. (on March 1887)	Pin of Roberts Light	N. 62° 28' W.
	Fort Point	N. 67° 24' E.



*Addenda Note*  
The position of the monument at the South Eastern corner or Initial point of the Reservation was defined in October, 1890, on the ground, in the presence of J. D. Briggs, late U. S. A. Milo Hoadley, late City & County Surveyor, and L. W. G. W. M. Whittier, C. S. of Engineers, whose affidavits were taken. This is shown on a map of a survey of a part of the boundaries of the Reservation made at that time.

**MAP  
OF THE  
MILITARY RESERVATION  
AT THE  
PRESIDIO  
OF  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA.**

And modified December 31<sup>st</sup> 1851, in addition thereto  
extending as far as Deep Water

ASSISTED BY  
2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUT. D. A. LYLE, 2<sup>ND</sup> U. S. ARTILLERY.  
BY 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUT. R. H. SAVAGE, U. S. ENGINEERS.

SCALE OF FEET

P.W. HAWEL, }  
J.R. MARRAS, } DRAUGHTSMEN

NOTES.

[illegible]

I hereby certify that during the year 1871, I have carefully examined and have had reviewed the original and valid solar maps deposited by Lieut. Lytle and Surgeon and that therein addition to other data obtained from other sources under my direction, principally made by my assistant, Mr. F. W. Merrill, have been used in the delineation of the present map which has been so constructed as to show with the greatest accuracy the position of the Southern boundary line of the Reserve from the S.E. corner to the Ocean Beach, on the Line upon which the location of the Reserve was based as shown by the recorded order of the President made in 1850. Instrumental errors and those of observation were corrected.

Wm. M. McCallister,  
Lieut. of Engineers,  
Head of West of California,  
April, 1871.

*Greenwheel.*  
Lieut. of Engineers.



## Vegetation

The problem with sand dunes, that resulted from the destruction of the native vegetation communities (from overgrazing and cutting trees), was pronounced enough for William Hammond Hall to label a large swath of the area north of Dragonfly Creek as “Drifting Sands” on his 1871 survey. The Presidio forest tree planting, which began in 1886 and helped to stabilize these dunes, became a major feature in the landscape.

## Water Features

Dragonfly Creek is shown, but not labeled or named, on Hall’s 1871 survey map.

By the 1870s, there was a water pipe (Wheeler 1870 and Thompson 1996) that connected a spring at Dragonfly Creek (located north/northeast of the present-day tennis courts) to two buildings, labeled as “Officers’ Quarters” on Hall’s 1871 survey map, located on the bluffs overlooking the bay.



Drifting sands and a creek mark the location of the future Ft. Scott, Willaim Hammond Hall Map of the Presidio, 1871

# Nationalistic Expansion (1891–1914)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

By the 1890s, the country, having survived a civil war and conquered the frontier West, began to seek a national identity that included an expanded place among world powers. The legacy of Manifest Destiny was becoming what some historians have called the “new imperialism.” There was an increased emphasis on the nation’s military power, and the improvement of military facilities, for both practical and symbolic purposes, was undertaken nationwide (NPS 1993 Section 8: 34).



During this period, the cultural landscape in the western portion of the Presidio, the area that came to be Fort Scott, was dramatically transformed. The modernization and expansion of the seacoast fortifications and the related construction at Fort Scott resulted in new topographic features, building clusters, and roads. As the Presidio forest’s trees continued to grow, their presence in the landscape became more pronounced.

Seacoast Fortifications

In 1885, a special board, which became known as the Endicott Board after its chairman Secretary of War William Endicott, was established by President Cleveland to make recommendations for the future of the nation’s seacoast defense system. These recommendations were based on the advances in military technology that had occurred over the past 15 years (since the implementation of the Plan of 1870). The board ranked the importance of the defense of San Francisco’s harbor second only to New York’s and developed a plan, to be implemented over the next 15 years, to modernize San Francisco’s seacoast fortifications.

During the previous period, fortifications had been sited based on the limits in range (less than three miles) of artillery. By the 1890s, this range had increased to between six and seven miles. However, the new Endicott batteries were built in the same place as the earlier East and West Batteries because the location and height of the bluffs (with their proximity to the ocean, bay, and entrance to harbor) still remained key to defensive strategy. Fort Scott was ideally located to protect the area outside the Golden Gate and the area within the bay, and of the 30 Endicott batteries constructed as part of the San Francisco seacoast fortification system between 1890 and 1905,

fifteen were located at Fort Scott (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 18 and Chapter 3: 2).

The series of batteries built on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean included: Batteries Lancaster (1899-1900),<sup>1</sup> Cranston (1899), Marcus-Miller (1899), Boutelle (1901), Godfrey (1896),<sup>2</sup> Crosby (1900), and Chamberlain (1904).

Batteries built along the bluffs overlooking the bay included: Batteries Baldwin (1903), Sherwood (1900), Blaney (1903), and Slaughter (1900).

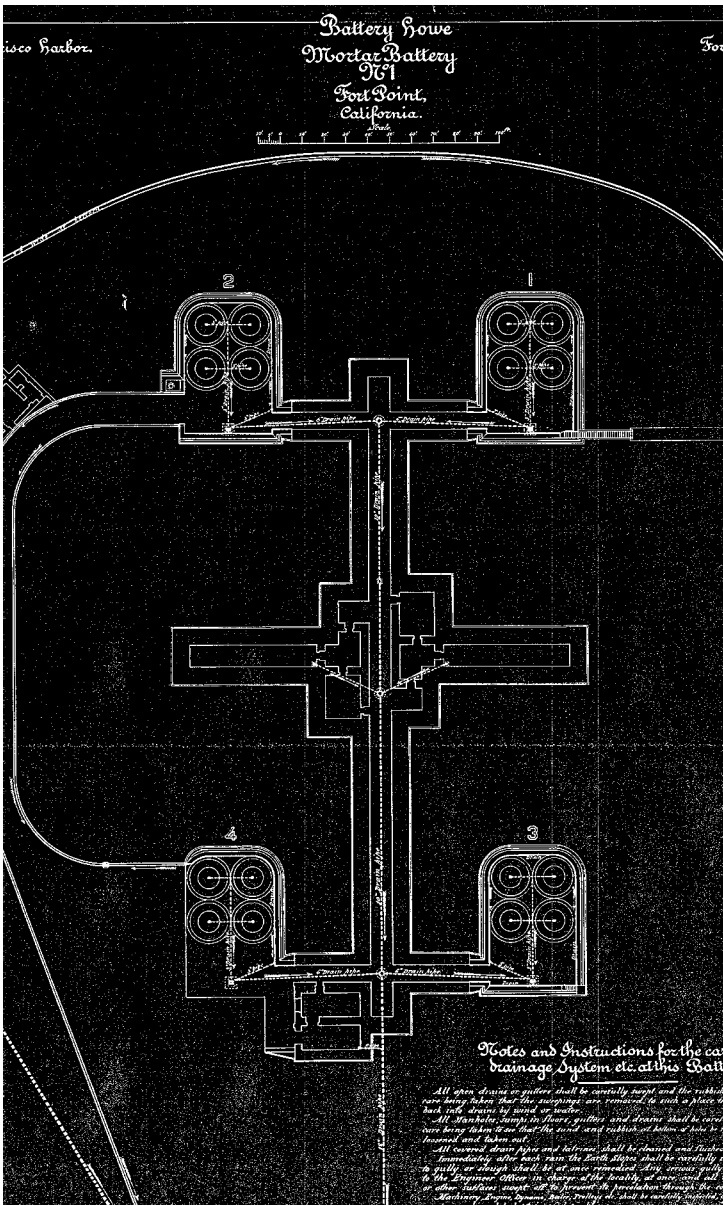
Three batteries, with artillery that was capable of rotating a full 360 degrees, were constructed farther inland within range of both the ocean and the bay. These batteries included: Batteries Howe-Wagner (1895), Saffold (1898), and McKinnon-Strotsenberg (1898).

Battery Dynamite (1894), an experimental battery that was built to test pneumatic guns that fired charges of dynamite, was also built in the interior of the post.

Batteries Howe-Wagner, Saffold, and Dynamite are located within the Fort Scott CLA’s study area, and additional details on their construction and history are provided below.

Battery Howe-Wagner

Construction on Battery Howe (it was renamed Battery Howe-Arthur Wagner in 1902)<sup>3</sup> began in April 1893 and was completed in 1895. The battery’s mortars were put into place in 1895 and had a range of eight miles. The battery was designed to have the capability of “all around fire,” that is its mortars could be rotated 360 degrees, and from this particular location were within range of both the ocean and bay. However, the mortars had a minimum range that required the battery to be placed



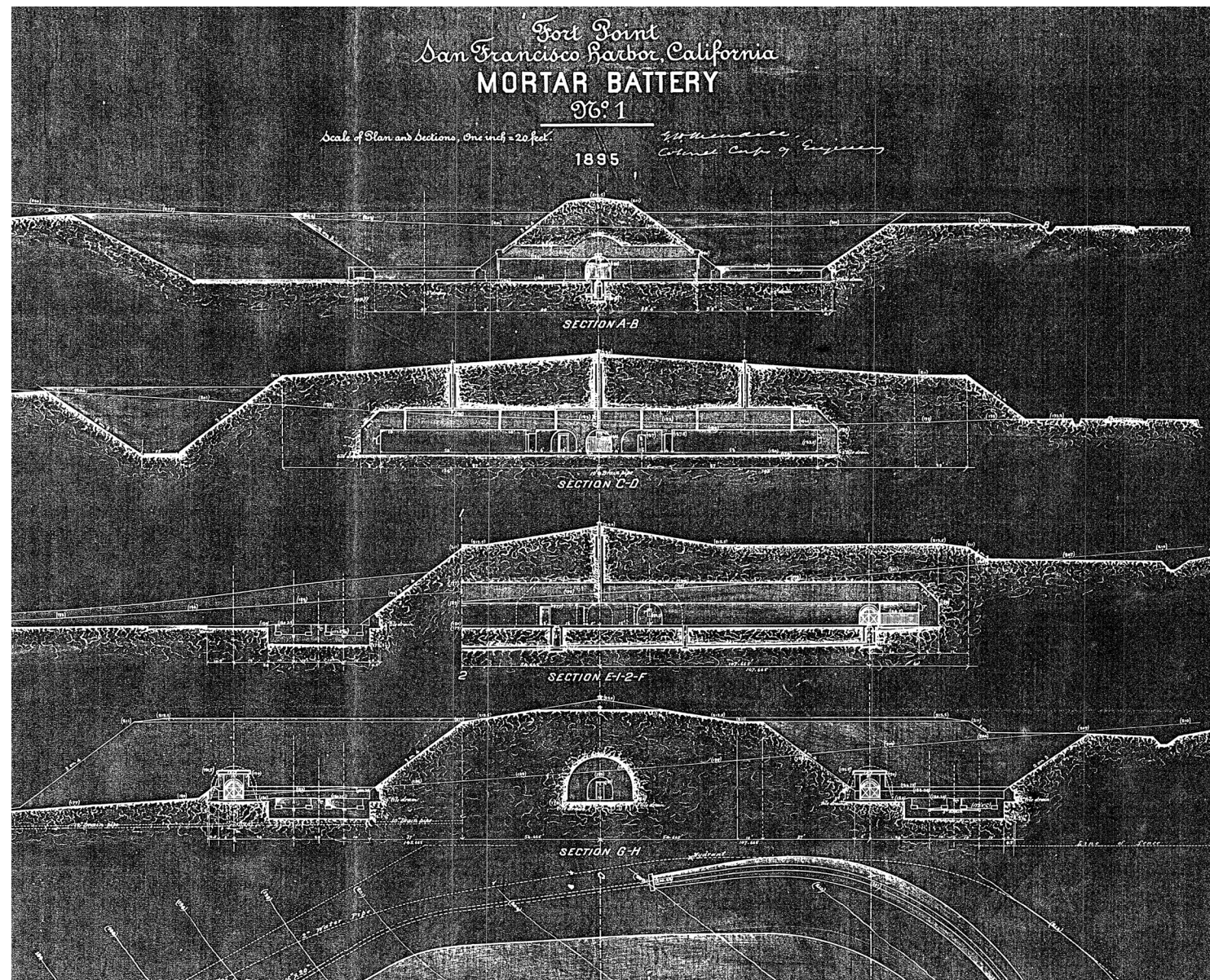
Battery Howe plan, no date .





Ft. Scott map, 1903.

- 1 Dates given are when guns or mortars were put into place in the battery.
- 2 Battery Godfrey, the first 12-in gun platform constructed in the U.S., was the prototype for this type of seacoast fortification.
- 3 The battery was named in honor of Colonel Albion P. Howe, a veteran of both the Civil and Mexican-American wars, who was the commanding officer of the Presidio in 1877; he died in 1897. In 1902, Battery Howe was divided into two separate administrative entities; the eastern two pits (Pits A and B) retained the name of Battery Howe; the western two pits (Pits C and D) were renamed Battery Arthur Wagner. Colonel Wagner, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, was a professor at the Infantry and Cavalry School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the author of several textbooks on training and strategic policy, an advocate of educational reform within the Army, and an early military intelligence leader; he died in 1905 (Thompson 1997: 405 and NPS 2006d).



Battery Howe Wagner sections, 1895.



this distance back from the shoreline. Otherwise the mortars would overshoot the area they were intended to defend. This location, away from the shoreline, also obscured the battery from the view of enemy ships and provided protection from possible naval bombardment (Martini 2006 and NPS 1999 Chapter 3: 3). Battery Howe was built in the shape of a cross with four pits, each of which contained four, breech-loading, 12-inch mortars.

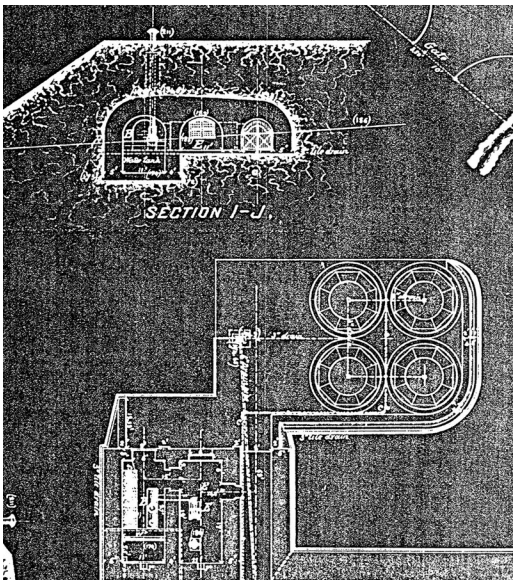
The construction of Battery Howe required modification to the existing topography and extensive earth moving. Berms with steep slopes (with a 3:4 grade ratio) were constructed around the battery. These berms were designed to provide both protection and camouflage, and the new earthen berm was planted to help stabilize the slope. Typically during this period, standardized plans called for oats and barley to be planted to stabilize the slope and to cover the slope's sand and dirt so that it did not blow into the battery's pit. This planted area was watered (beginning in 1894) during the dry season in an effort to maintain the vegetation. A series of drains, retaining walls at the base of the slopes, gutters, and pumps were installed to deal with drainage and to stabilize the slope. The burrows of moles and gophers were a problem for these earthworks, and at Battery Howe, these contributed to the failure of the slopes during heavy rains in the winter of 1894–95 when soil from the slopes flowed down into the mortar pits (NPS 1999 Chapter 3: 5 and Chapter 5: 4).<sup>4</sup> A seven-foot high, redwood picket fence was built around the site and was treated with a “dull-red lime wash” (NPS 1999 Chapter 5: 4 and Rickon 1903).<sup>5</sup> Between

4 The slopes were rebuilt, but first over 1,000 cubic yards of material had to be removed by hand and carried out in pails (NPS 1999 Chapter 3: 5).

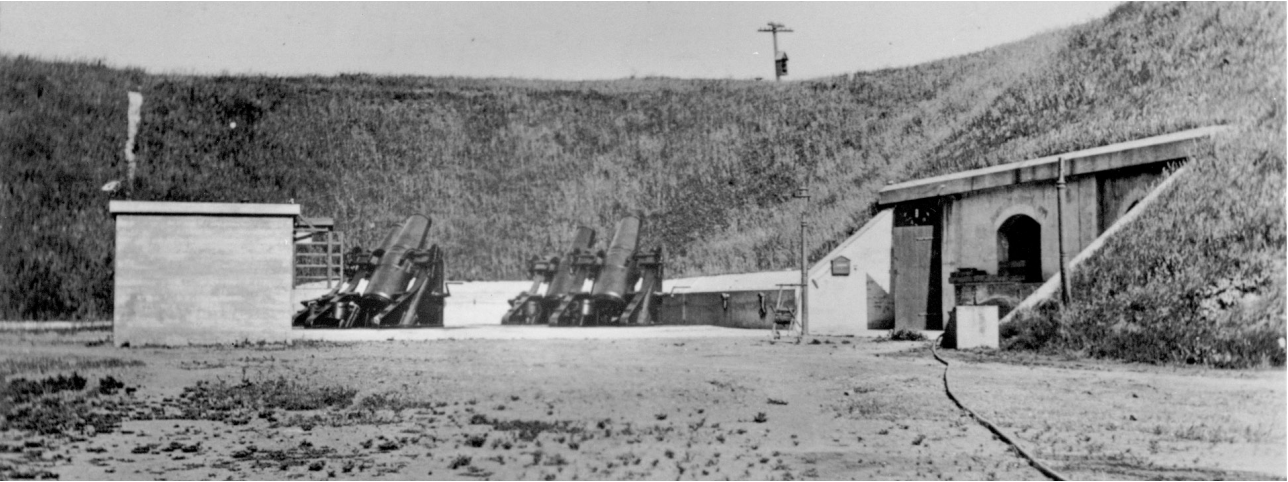
5 Up until 1912, fencing was a standard practice around the batteries. However, as part of the planning for the Panama Pacific International Exposition, the Army decided to allow public visitation at the batteries and to remove fences as part of its effort to improve its public image (NPS 1999 Chapter 5: 10).

1903 and 1906, a single row of trees encircled the battery, and the Presidio forest had expanded to the south side of the battery (Hart 1906).

Roads were part of the construction of the battery, and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Army typically paved these with macadam. By 1905, there were two external roads that provided connections to Battery Howe-Wagner: a paved road along the north side of the battery (in the same general alignment as Storey Avenue) that provided connections at its east and west ends to Lincoln Boulevard and an unpaved road located south of the battery that connected at its west end to Lincoln Boulevard (along the same general alignment as Ruckman Avenue). There were two internal roads: one located inside the row of Monterey cypress on the north side of the battery (that followed present-day Battery Howe-Wagner Road's alignment) and a similar road, inside the row of trees and the protective berm, that extended approximately half way across the south side of the battery (U.S. Army 1905).



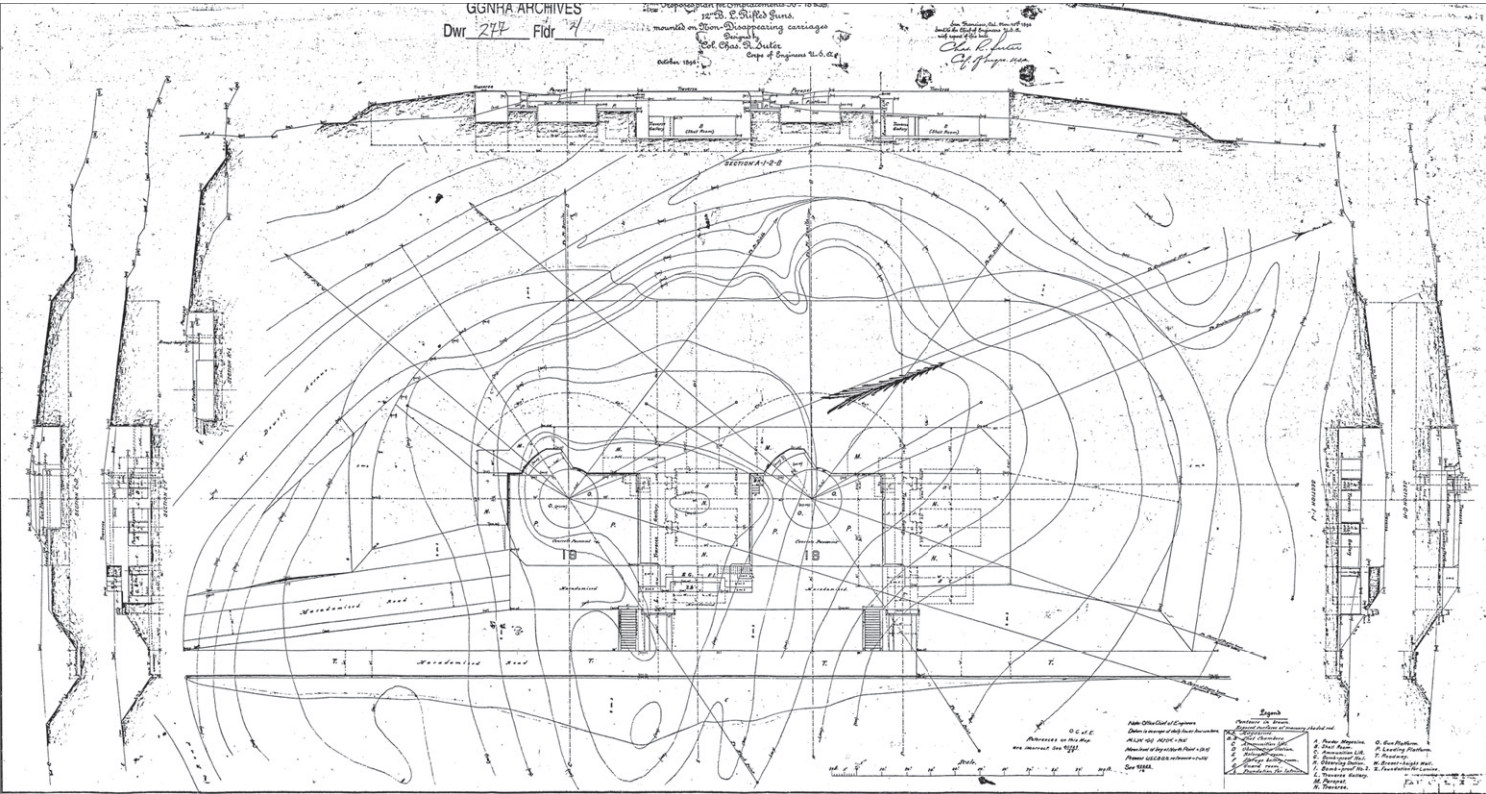
Battery Howe-Wagner, plan and section detail, 1895.



Battery Howe-Wagner, 12 inch, breech loading mortars

Battery Saffold

Construction on Battery Saffold,<sup>6</sup> located southwest of Battery West just east of Lincoln Boulevard, was completed in 1898 when the battery's second gun was mounted. Battery Saffold had two, 12-inch caliber guns mounted on barbette (non-disappearing) carriages with a range of 6.6 miles; however, through various adjustments an effective range of 12.5 miles could be achieved. These two guns were unique within San Francisco's seacoast fortifications because they could be rotated 360 degrees so that they could be fired toward either the ocean or the bay.<sup>7</sup> The earthworks were planted in much the same way as Battery Howe and had the same general type of drainage system (NPS 2006e, California State Military Museum 2006b, and Martini 2006).



Battery Saffold Plan, 1896.

6 In 1902, the battery was named in honor of Captain Marion M. Saffold who was killed in action in the Philippines in 1899 during the Spanish-American war (California State Military Museum 2006b).

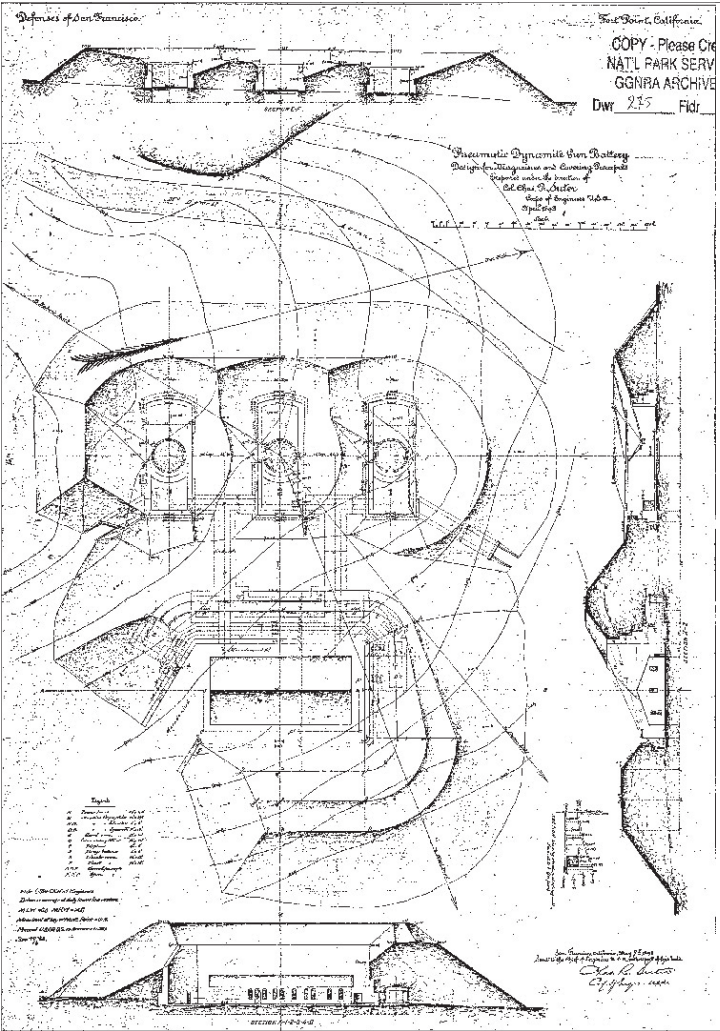
7 Battery Saffold's guns fired in a relatively flat trajectory (they could not be elevated more than 15 degrees). As the Presidio forest spread into the area northeast of the battery and the trees matured, the use of the guns in the direction of the bay was limited. And after the construction of the Fort Scott Parade Ground structures in 1910-12 (also located between the battery and the bay), the guns could no longer be fired toward the bay (NPS 2006e and Martini 2006).



### Battery Dynamite

Battery Dynamite was one of two of this type of battery that was built to test an experimental gun that used compressed air to fire charges of dynamite.<sup>8</sup> The battery, located southeast of Battery Godfrey, was built by the developers of the guns and was operational by December 1895 when the first test firing took place (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 18). The tests were successful, but the Army remained unenthusiastic and never adopted the concept, saying that submarine mines were the best way to handle high explosives. No more dynamite batteries were built, and in 1901, the Board of Ordnance and Fortification declared the pneumatic dynamite batteries obsolete. In 1904, the guns and machinery at Battery Dynamite were removed and sold (Thompson 1997: 403).

The original battery included three guns spaced 85 feet apart. The use of compressed air required specialized structures: underground vaults for disposing each gun's air reservoirs and power plant building (85 feet by 35 feet), located east of the guns, which provided electricity to power the air compressors that propelled the projectiles. The battery was originally constructed without a protective earthen berm, but during the Spanish American War, due to concern that the battery's guns were exposed and plainly visible from the ocean, high earthen traverses were built around the guns (transforming each into a pit). Concrete retaining walls were built around the power-house so that earth could be placed as near and as high as possible around this structure. Bombproof magazines and covered passageways were also added. This work began in August 1898 and was completed in March 1900 (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 18 and Wofford 2007a).



Battery Dynamite plan, 1898.



Above Top  
Ft. Scott batteries looking towards the Golden Gate, c. 1910.



Above Bottom  
Battery Howe-Wagner.

<sup>8</sup> The other one was built at Sandy Hook, New Jersey.

The battery's original power plant building was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. The Engineers Department decided to build a new power plant building in the same location as a way to supply electricity for the new post (Fort Scott). This new concrete building (No. 1398) contained a boiler room, engine room, shop, storeroom, and lavatory, and by the spring of 1910 the equipment was in place. (However, by 1912, commercial electricity had extended throughout both the Presidio of San Francisco and Fort Scott.) By 1912, Battery Dynamite was being used for storage, and a machine shop (No. 1365) had been added to the west side of the entrance to the battery and an ordnance shop (No. 1363) just west of the battery. This industrial area would continue to expand to the west over the next several decades (Thompson 1997: 407-408, 419-420).

### Vegetation at the Batteries

The landscape features at the batteries (sloping earth berms and vegetation) were a part of the design of the batteries and contributed to their function. These features were initially based on standard Army specifications but were eventually adapted to meet local Bay Area climate conditions. At the earliest Endicott batteries, oats and barley were sown or sod was added to the slopes of the batteries. These grasses were not well adapted to survive the dry-season conditions in San Francisco, and beginning in 1894, the slopes were watered or irrigated during the dry months.<sup>9</sup> This effort coincided with the Midwinter Fair that ran in San Francisco from January through June 1894 and may have been an attempt by the Army to improve its image during this very public event (NPS 1999 Chapter 5: 4).

<sup>9</sup> In 1910, this irrigation practice was adopted as standard policy nationwide (NPS 1999 Chapter 5:4)

In 1901, the Army tried several new approaches for vegetation at the newly constructed Battery Livingston, located south of Fort Scott at Fort Miley. These practices were ultimately adopted throughout San Francisco's seacoast fortifications and resulted in changes to the vegetation surrounding the batteries. Battery Livingston was a mortar battery with steep slopes around its mortar pits. As mentioned previously, the Army began watering the vegetation at batteries, in 1894, in an effort to keep the plants alive during the dry season and to prevent land slides. At Battery Livingston, the Army tried a different approach. Rather than simply sowing some type of grass seed or laying sod, the Army planted a combination of oats, ice plant, and some type of bunch grass,<sup>10</sup> lupine, and eucalyptus trees. Oats – which from a distance blended into the surrounding landscape were planted on the outer slope of the battery. Cuttings<sup>11</sup> of ice plant were planted on the inner slopes of the battery. Ice plant was considered an ideal plant for several reasons. It was drought resistant (i.e. it did not require irrigation) and fast-growing. Also, it formed a dense mat and was able to hold the steeper inner slopes better than the oats. (The inner slopes were not visible and so camouflage was not an issue.) The Army planted bunch grasses on all of the sand dunes around the battery. The perennial bunch grasses were adapted to the extensive dry-season and had long roots that aided in stabilizing the dunes and in preventing sand from blowing into the mortar pits. This type of vegetation also had the appearance of being "natural" and provided some level of camouflage to the battery (NPS 1999 Chapter 5: 6-7).

This concern for camouflage and the use of native vegetation was developed more fully over the next few years:

<sup>10</sup> The citation in the Seacoast Fortifications Preservation Manual (NPS 1999) is unclear about the exact nature of the vegetation; "bunch grass (arundinario [sic])" is the term used; bunch grasses are native plant materials along the northern California coast; however, *Arundinaria* is the genus for bamboo.

In 1907, the Army noted, after inspections of batteries on the south side of the harbor, that in some cases installations still appeared as abrupt breaks in the landscape, rather than blending in. For Fort Scott, in particular, it was stated that in such a heavily forested location, trees should be encouraged to grow up and provide concealment (NPS 1999 Chapter 5: 8).

Then in 1910, a memo from the Office of Chief of Coast Artillery in Washington, D.C. specified that the exterior slopes at all batteries were to be made to conform to the appearance of the "surrounding ground" by avoiding "geometrical contours" and planting "such trees and shrubs, as can be obtained in the neighborhood of the defenses, on the slopes of the defenses and around them." Trees were to be planted in the rear and between batteries; low trees were to be planted at the foot of the batteries; and bushes and shrubs were to be planted on the "superior [outside] slopes of batteries and low shrubs in irregular splotches between guns." Post commanders were instructed to remove native or existing vegetation either on the military reservation or from local landowners, to identify suitable vegetation and buy it, and to "start small nurseries where bushes, trees, etc. may be produced and cultivated" (NPS 1999 Chapter 5: 8-9).

Ice plant, widely planted on the inner slopes of batteries, spread outside of the confines of the batteries and became a common vegetation feature in Fort Scott's landscape. Eucalyptus trees were allowed to grow around and eventually on top of the batteries.

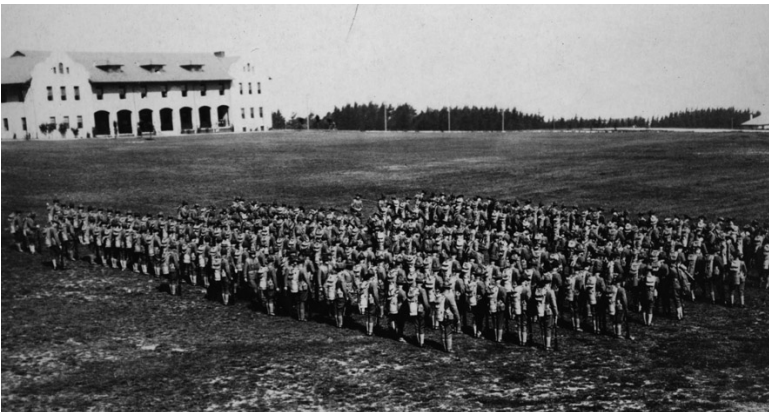
<sup>11</sup> According to records that were reviewed in the preparation of the Seacoast Fortifications Preservation Manual, the iceplant cuttings were not purchased but were obtained from some nearby (but unspecified) location where the plant was already established in 1901 (NPS 1999 Chapter 5: 6).

# Presidio Forest

The tree planting in the Presidio continued during this period, and by 1902, trees covered 420 acres (Thompson 1997: 186). The Army had followed only portions of Major Jones’ plan for the planting and maintenance of the forest. His recommendation that “Trees in masses should be planted very thickly” (Jones 1883: 3) was followed; however, his companion directive to conduct annual thinning was generally left undone. By 1902, much of the forest consisted of stands of densely planted trees that were allowed to mature without thinning taking place. The grid layout of the trees, that became a characteristic feature in parts of the forest, was not a part of Jones’ plan. Additionally, the full range of tree species that Jones’ had included in his recommendations was never planted. Instead, the types of trees that were planted were those that were in vogue in California at the time and those that proved to be hardy and adapted to the site conditions. The most commonly planted trees at the Presidio included various species of eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.), Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), and blackwood acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*) (NPS 2001: 42). Some of the trees that were planted were grown at the Presidio’s nursery; in other cases, trees were purchased from local nurseries; in at least one case, trees were obtained from the nursery at Golden Gate Park in exchange for soil that was removed from the vicinity of Mountain Lake (Thompson 1997: 180-86).

In 1902, William L. Hall, the chief of the Division of Forest Extension at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, came to the Presidio, studied the forest’s existing conditions, and then made recommendations.<sup>12</sup> Hall’s plan divided the reservation into sections, and for each he made specific recommenda-

tions for thinning as well as additional planting related to visual screening, soil retention, and windbreaks. During 1902, Jones also returned to the Presidio to make recommendations related to: thinning forest stands, the setting and views within the reservation, and plantings for ornamental purposes.<sup>13</sup> Many of Hall’s and Jones’ recommendations were never implemented (especially regarding the systematic thinning of trees), and after the 1906 earthquake and fire, the Army focused funding for tree planting on posts other than the Presidio (Thompson 1997: 197). After 1910, additional planting and the natural regeneration of the trees resulted in the forest extending into areas that were outside of Jones’ original plan (Jones & Stokes 1994 Section 2: 9). In other areas, portions of Presidio forest were removed to make way for development. This occurred at Fort Scott during the 1910s when trees were removed to open areas for the construction of the Parade Ground and along Kobbe, Storey, and Ruckman avenues for housing, and then in 1941 south of Appleton Avenue for a group of warehouses.<sup>14</sup>



Parade Ground with Building 1208 in the background, no date.

12 In 1901, Major General S. B. M. Young, who commanded the Department of California, had consulted with Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Division of Forestry at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a nationally-recognized expert, on the need to develop a “systematic and permanent plan of improvement” for the forest. Hall came to the Presidio as a result of this consultation (Thompson 1997: 186).

13 In his 12 November 1902 letter, “Suggestions in the matter of parking the U.S. military reservation of the Presidio of San Francisco,” some of Jones’ made general recommendations, such as when he directed that trees be removed from the north side of the road that ran between the Main Post and Fort Point so that the bay would be more visible (Thompson 1997: 177). In others, such as his recommendations for the experience after entering the Arguello Gate, Jones gave more detailed instructions:

“Fill in the space on the right hand side of the road after entering [from the Arguello Gate] with a dense growth of eucalyptus, so as to make the first part of the drive entering the reservation dark and somber. This will conduce a feeling of awe which will suddenly be contrasted strongly with a magnificent view of the Presidio, with the Bay and Mountains beyond (Jones quoted in Thompson 1997: 177).”

14 Other instances (outside of the Fort Scott CLA study area) included the Cavalry Stables area, along Compton Road and Washington Boulevard for housing, and at the Baker Beach Apartments area.

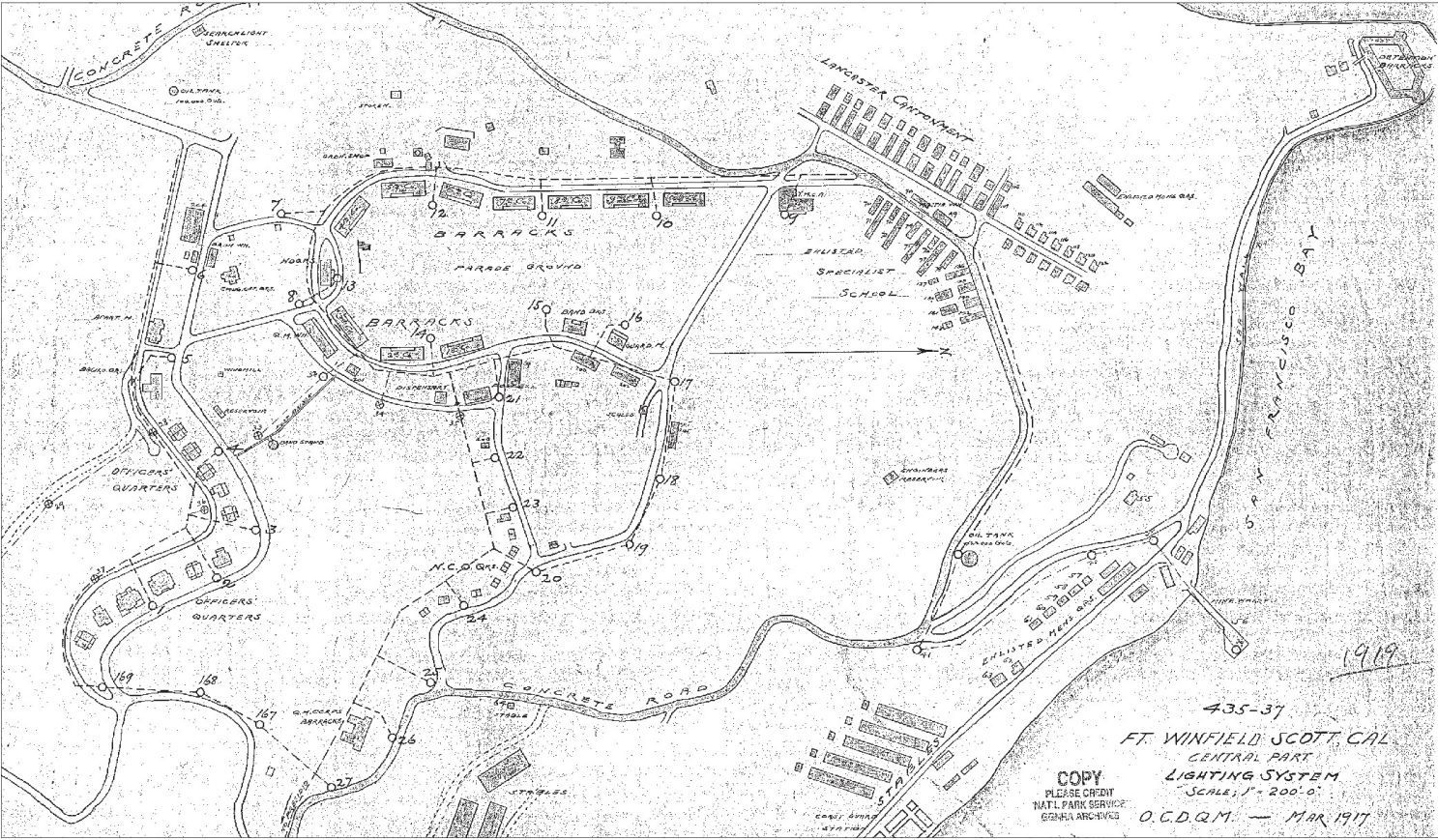


# Fort Scott

The construction of Fort Scott during the 1910s dramatically altered the cultural landscape of the western portion of the Presidio. Although Congress did not fund the appropriations for the construction of a new military post at Fort Scott until 1909, the concept for a post in this location had been developing since the 1890s as part of the development of the Endicott era seacoast defenses (Thompson 1997: 417).

From a practical standpoint, the new post was required to accommodate the needs of the Coast Artillery companies. In order to reach the batteries, the soldiers had to march one and a half miles from the Presidio's barracks out to the batteries, and then repeat this march at the end of the day. Also, as the number of Coast Artillery companies increased, the facilities at the Presidio became increasingly overcrowded. In 1902, a barracks (No. 682) was built on a hill overlooking the Cavalry Stables area, and two quarters for officers were built on the east end of the newly-laid-out Kobbé Avenue (Nos. 1302 and 1304). In 1906, "a crude temporary barracks for one Coast Artillery company" was built above (to the south) of Fort Point, but there continued to be an urgent need for more and better accommodations for the Coast Artillery companies (Thompson 1997: 418).

In 1901, the Coast Artillery Corps were established "as a separate arm of the service in recognition of the importance of the specialized mission of strategic deterrence" (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 17), and by 1906, the War Department had made the decision that a new post for coast artillery would be established and built in the western part of the Presidio (Thompson 1997: 361). The new command headquarters would reflect the Coast



Ft. Scott plan (showing buildings constructed), 1917.

Artillery’s separate status from the infantry at the Presidio, and Congress passed an appropriation to fund the construction of Fort Scott in 1909.

There are several plans that show the progression of the development of the plan for Fort Scott:

- In 1906, Major William W. Harts, an Army engineer, prepared the “Report Upon the Expansion and Development of the Presidio of San Francisco, California” (Hart 1906). Hart’s plan looked at the Presidio as a whole and was basically a master plan for development. His plan showed an awareness of the landscape’s topography, setting, and views and, although more formal than the design that was ultimately developed for Fort Scott, undoubtedly influenced it.<sup>15</sup>
- By April 1909, there was an approved plan for Fort Scott (U.S. Army 1909). The locations of the two housing areas along existing roads (on Kobbe Avenue and Storey Avenue) were shown in the locations that exist today. However, the layout of the Parade Ground was still evolving. By April, the concept of aligning the Parade Ground to the north was in place. However, the roads that formed the Parade Ground appear to have been superimposed onto the landscape with little consideration given to the actual topography. In this plan, the east and west sides of the Parade Ground were formed by two straight parallel roads that extended all the way from Kobbe Avenue (on the south) to Storey Avenue (on the north). This arrangement would have resulted in a long, narrow parade area that would have sloped noticeably downward to the northeast.
- By September 1909, it appears that construction had started (U.S. Army Quartermaster General’s Office 1909). The outline of Ralston Avenue was shown on the September plan. The road was laid out in a horseshoe; the enclosed (south) end of this horseshoe was located well north of Kobbe Avenue. The east and west sides of the horseshoe were laid out farther apart than had been the case in the April plan. These modifications, from

the April plan, reinforced the focus north toward the Golden Gate and bay and resulted in a more cohesive clustering of the buildings and a parade area that was more level.

- The “Approved Plan” from January 1910 showed the continued evolution of the planning and the extent of construction (U.S. Army 1910). This plan showed the location of the secondary roads (Upton Avenue located parallel to the east side of Ralston and Upton Avenue and Greenough Avenue providing connections to Kobbe Avenue). The location of the commanding officer quarters on Upton was drawn in but not labeled. This plan also showed the development of recreational facilities (tennis court, club house, and bandstand) in the ravine between Dragonfly Creek and Kobbe Avenue.

The original phase of construction continued for three years<sup>16</sup> and resulted in three groups of buildings at Fort Scott: 1) the barracks and administrative buildings organized around the post’s central Parade Ground; 2) the officer quarters located south/southeast of the Parade Ground along Kobbe Avenue; and 3) the noncommissioned officer quarters located east of the Parade Ground along Storey and Ruckman avenues. A fourth area, the officer recreational area, located between Dragonfly Creek and Kobbe Avenue was also a part of the initial plan. All four were sited in response to the topography of the landscape that resulted in a curvilinear or serpentine layout for the roads and buildings rather than in a rectilinear or grid layout, as was more typical in military planning (and at the Main Post at the Presidio).

The Parade Ground was both the functional and the symbolic center for the new post. The axis of the Parade Ground was aligned in a north-to-south direction, through the Headquarters Building (No.1201), and related not to the Main Post at the Presidio but to the Golden Gate and the bay - the very features

15 Hart envisioned terraces for development (for the barracks and quarters) with buildings oriented toward the bay in a northeast alignment similar to that of the Main Post at the Presidio. However, in Hart’s plan, the strict rectilinear arrangement of the Main Post was replaced with a curvilinear arrangement of buildings, to fit existing topography (Hart 1907). (Hart’s plan also reflected the ideas of Daniel Burnham’s 1905 plan for the Presidio; Hart included Burnham’s plan as “Plate 2” in his plan.)

16 During 1909, the following were completed:

- Work had started on the Parade Ground buildings but none were completed in 1909.
- Officer quarters (Buildings 1300, 1308, and 1310) along the east end of Kobbe Avenue; these were built on either side of the existing quarters (Buildings 1302 and 1304) that had been built in 1902.
- Quarters for noncommissioned officers (Buildings 1261, 1263, 1265, and 1268) along the east end of Storey Avenue.

During 1910, the following were completed:

- Three barracks (Buildings 1206, 1207, and 1208,) on the west side of the Parade Ground; three barracks (Buildings 1216, 1217, and 1218,) on the east side of the Parade Ground; and a quartermaster storehouse (Building 1219) located behind (south) of Building 1218.
- Six more officers’ quarters (Buildings 1314, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, and 1328) along Kobbe Avenue.

During 1911, the following were completed:

- Two barracks (Buildings 1202 and 1203) on west side of Parade Ground.
- Exchange gym (Building 1226) along Upton Avenue, to the row of buildings that were behind the barracks on the Parade Ground.

During 1912, the following were completed:

- Headquarters Building (Building 1201) and two barracks (Buildings 1204 and 1205), completing the west row around the Parade Ground.
- The Guardhouse (Building 1213) at the far end along the east side of the Parade Ground and the Infirmary (Building 1224) along Upton Avenue.
- Officer quarters (Building 1334) at the west end of the row along Kobbe Avenue.
- Three more noncommissioned officer quarters (Buildings 1272, 1273, and 1274) added to the east end of the row along Storey Avenue.

17 About this same time, Fort Miley was designated a sub-post of Fort Scott; Fort Miley was the headquarters of the Pacific Coast Artillery District which included the coast defenses in San Diego, San Francisco, Columbia, and Puget Sound (Thompson 1997: 420).





**Above Top**  
Building 1214.



**Above Bottom**  
Building 1322.

that the Coast Artillery was there to protect. The buildings and activities of the new post focused on the Parade Ground. The headquarters building was located at the south end of the Parade Ground with its front facing northward with views toward the Golden Gate and bay. The use of the Mission Revival style for the core buildings surrounding the Parade Ground provided another layer of separation from the Presidio and marked the major introduction of this stylistic idiom to the architecture of Army facilities in the Bay Area. As architectural historian David Gebhard noted:

The Mission Revival began in California in the early 1890s and by 1900 examples were being built across the country. Its high point of popularity was in the ten year period 1905-1915. As a style it was used successfully for a wide variety of building types, ranging from railroad stations and resort hotels to school, service stations, apartments and single family dwellings . . . Since it relied on only a limited number of stylistic elements, it could readily be organized to satisfy new functional needs (Gebhard et al. 1985: 570).

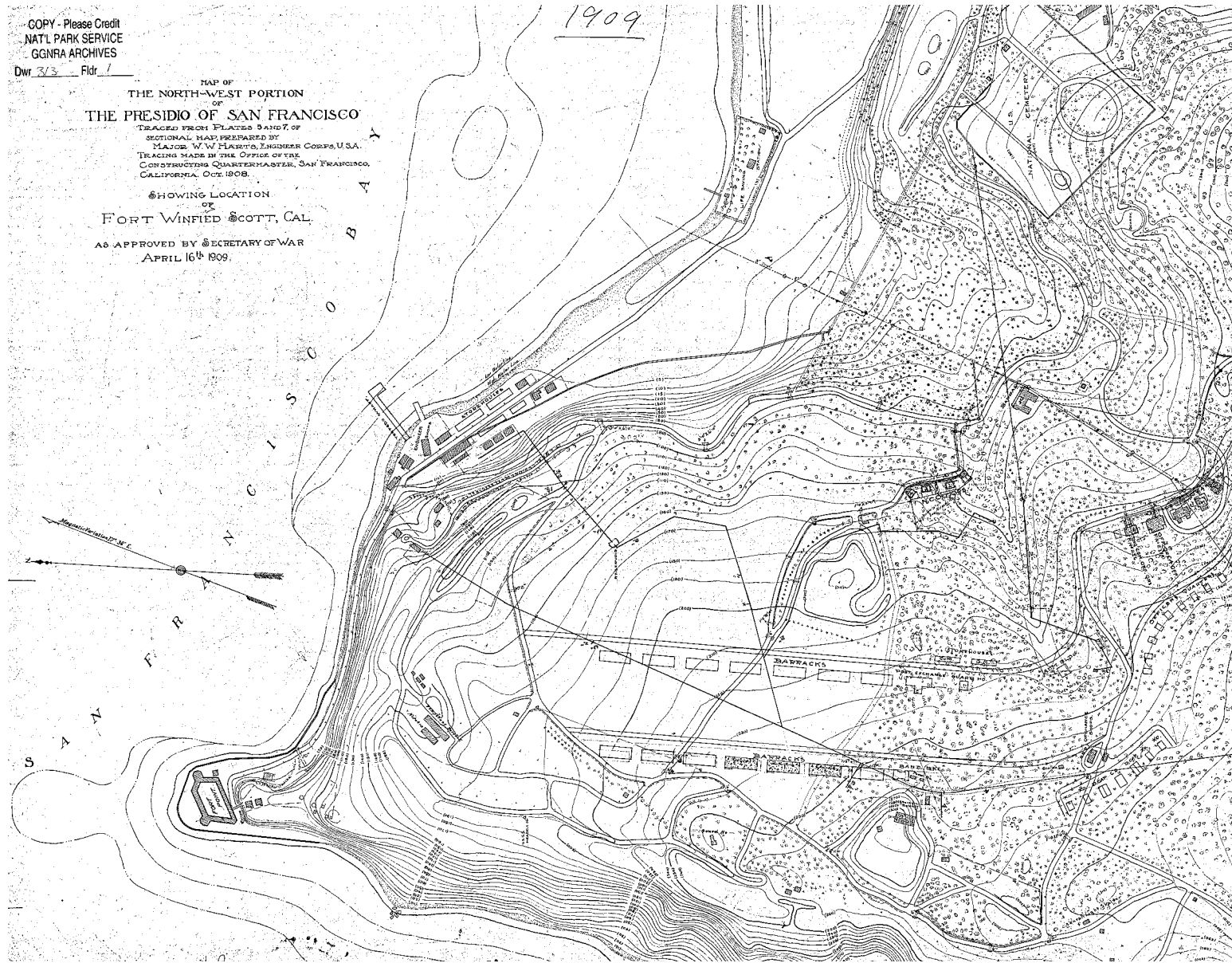
The officer quarters were located along Kobbe Avenue, to the south of the Parade Ground and were connected to this area by two short roads, Upton Avenue and Greenough Avenue, that connected to the east and west sides of the Headquarters Building, respectively. The bachelor officer quarters were at the west end of Kobbe Avenue, and the officer family quarters were located to the east. The fronts of the quarters faced north, toward Kobbe Avenue, and a service road, Hitchcock Street, was located directly behind them (to the south). These buildings were constructed using standard Army plans. The uniform

set back and architecture of the buildings helped to create a distinct streetscape and identity for this area.

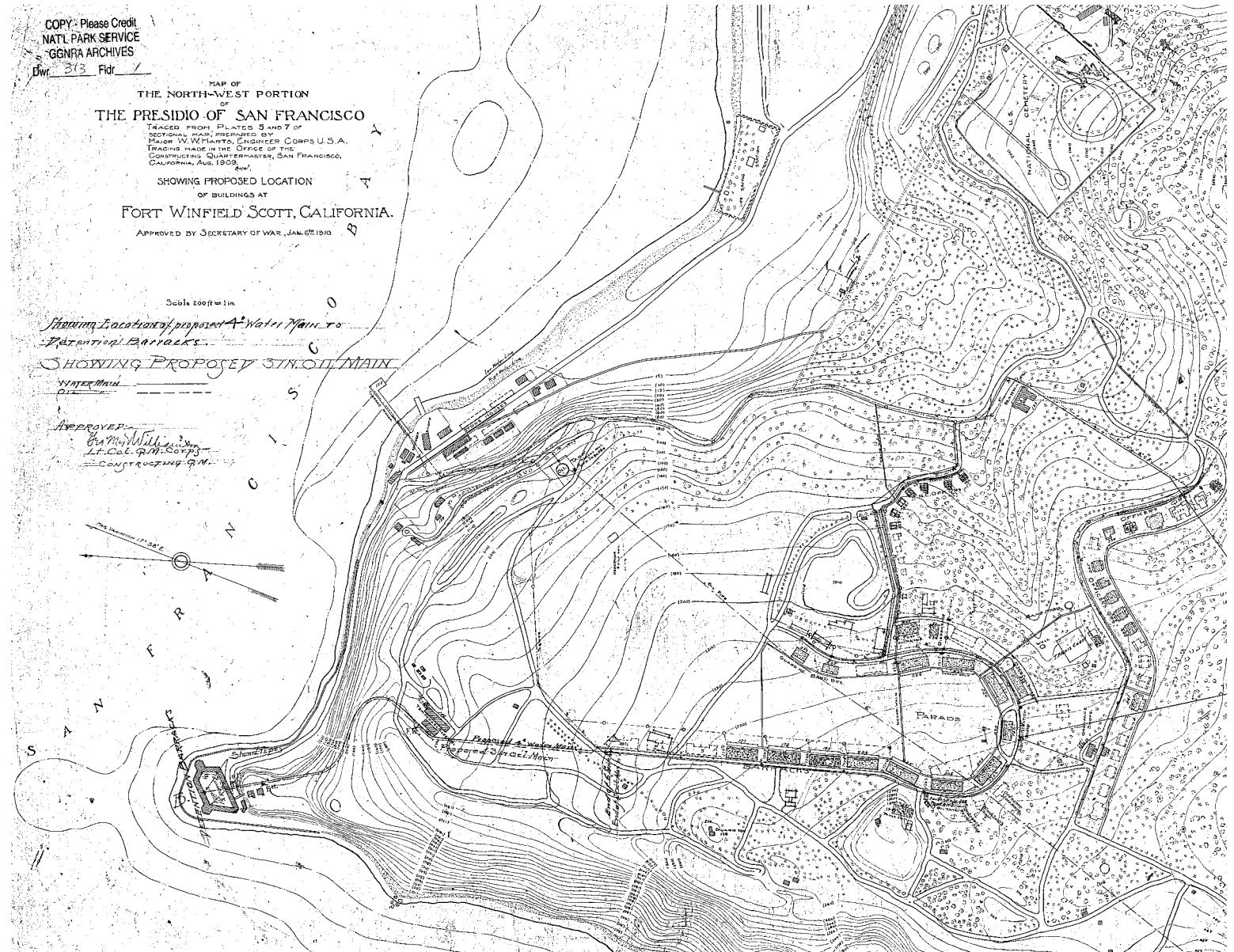
The noncommissioned officer family quarters were located to the east of the Parade Ground along the east end of Storey Avenue. Storey Avenue was named in 1910, but the road had been laid out sometime around 1895 to provide access to Battery Howe-Wagner. The new quarters were located on the south side of the road facing north so that they took advantage of the existing topography and looked downhill. The alignment for Ruckman Avenue, along the south side of Battery Howe-Wagner, was completed in 1911, and the quarters were eventually extended along this road.

On the 1910 plan for the new post, the ravine along the Dragonfly Creek stream corridor was left largely undeveloped to provide a buffer for officer quarters area between the Parade Ground and the noncommissioned officer quarters. However, the west end of the ravine was cleared and developed into a recreational area for the officers. The location of the Fort Scott officer recreation area, adjacent to the Kobbe Avenue officer quarters, was typical of standard Army planning procedures in the early 20th century.

In February 1912, as completion of the buildings neared, the Secretary of War directed that “as soon as the new barracks at Fort Winfield Scott, California are ready for occupancy, that the post be established as an independent coast artillery post and that the headquarters of the Artillery District of San Francisco be located there” (quoted in Thompson 1997: 420).<sup>17</sup> Troops began moving into the completed buildings during May and June 1912, and on 19 June 1912, Fort Scott was “established an Independent Post from the Presidio of San Francisco, at 12:00 o’clock noon” (General Orders No. 11 quoted in Thompson 1997: 420).



Ft. Scott initial site plan, 1909. Note orthogonal layout of the Parade Ground.



Ft. Scott revised site plan, 1910. Parade Ground now shows its distinctive curved shape.



# Summary of Changes to the Cultural Landscape During The Nationalist Expansion Period

## Spatial Organization

During this period, the cultural landscape on the western portion of the Presidio, the area that became Fort Scott, was dramatically transformed. The existing spatial organization and character of the landscape, one of open space with only a few buildings located along the edges and expansive views across the landscape, disappeared. As the area encompassed by the Presidio forest expanded, more of the open space disappeared, and by 1910, the majority of the land that would become Fort Scott was covered with trees. As the trees matured and grew taller, views and spatial relationships between areas were altered. The expansion of the batteries along both the coast and bayside bluffs and the construction of Fort Scott added new topographic features, building clusters, and roads to the landscape and expanded the built features into the interior of the western portion of the Presidio. After the construction of Fort Scott, there were three main building clusters: 1) the Parade Ground and its cluster of buildings along Ralston and Upton avenues; 2) the officer quarters along Kobbe Avenue; and 3) the noncommissioned officer quarters along Storey and Ruckman avenues. The officer recreation area on Kobbe Avenue (with a tennis club, an officer club, and a band stand) was also a part of the initial plan for Fort Scott (U.S. Army 1910).

## Topography

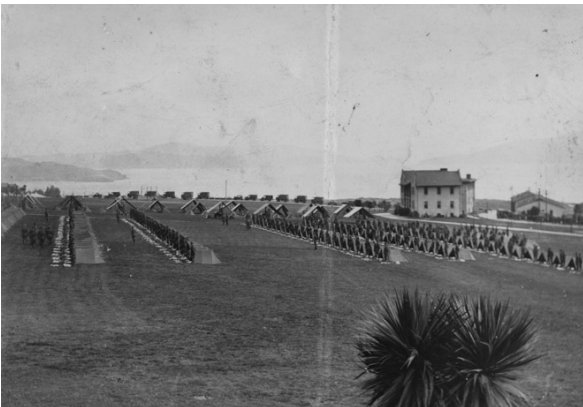
The batteries built during this era were protected by a man-made berm of mounded earth that added new topographic features to the landscape. There were a row of batteries along the coast (Batteries Lancaster, Cranston, Marcus-Miller, Boutelle, Godfrey, Crosby, and Chamberlain) and a row along the bluffs overlooking the bay (Batteries Baldwin, Sherwood, Blaney, and Slaughter). The construction of Batteries Howe-Wagner, Saffold, Dynamite, and McKinnon-Stotsenberg added noticeable new mounds or hills to the interior portion of the landscape. The construction of roads and the leveling of buildings sites for Fort Scott also altered the existing topography; although this was done in a way that responded to the existing topography.

## Buildings and Structures

Batteries Lancaster, Cranston, Marcus-Miller, Boutelle, Godfrey, Crosby, and Chamberlain were built along the coast. Batteries Baldwin, Sherwood, Blaney, and Slaughter were built along the bluffs overlooking the bay. (All of these are located outside of the study area for the Fort Scott CLA.)

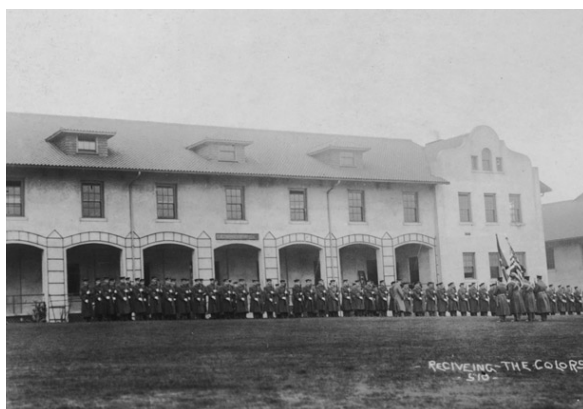
Batteries Howe-Wagner, Saffold, and McKinnon-Stotsenberg, Dynamite were constructed inland. Batteries Howe-Wagner (No. 1287), Saffold (No. 1354), and Dynamite (No. 1399) are located within the study area of the Fort Scott CLA.

The following buildings around the Parade Ground were constructed during this period: the Headquarters Building (No. 1201), Barracks (Nos. 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1214, 1216, 1217, 1218), and the Guardhouse (No. 1213).



**Above Top**  
Parade ground looking north, c. 1920.

**Above Bottom**  
Parade ground looking south, no date.



**Above Top**  
Building 1331 and windmill, no date.

**Above Bottom**  
Parade ground and barracks, no date. Note trellises at colonnade

18 McDowell Avenue is referred to by its present-day name - Lincoln Boulevard - in the Fort Scott Cultural Landscape Assessment.

19 The road around Batteries Dynamite was altered by the construction of Ralston Road.

The following support buildings were constructed along Upton Avenue: the Quartermaster Storehouse (No. 1219), the Infirmary (No. 1224), the Exchange Gym (No. 1226), and the Blacksmith Shop (No. 1231).

In 1902, two officer quarters (Nos. 1302 and 1304) were built on the east end of the newly constructed Kobbe Avenue. Then during the construction of Fort Scott, the following officer quarters were added to the housing area along Kobbe Avenue: Nos. 1300, 1308, 1310, 1314, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, 1328, and 1334.

Although, it is not entirely clear when the features in the officer recreation area off Kobbe Avenue (located across the street [north] of the officer quarters) were actually built, this area was shown on the Constructing Quartermaster's approved plan for Fort Scott, dated 6 January 1910 (U.S. Army 1910). This plan showed the location for and labeled the tennis courts, a bandstand, and a boardwalk (that spanned Dragonfly Creek and connected Kobbe Avenue to Upton Avenue). The plan also showed the location of the officer club (although it was not labeled). All of these features were constructed in the locations shown on this 1910 plan; all, with the exception of the officer club, were shown a 1917 map of the post (U.S. Army 1917).

Noncommissioned officer quarters (Nos. 1261, 1263, 1265, 1268, 1272, 1273, and 1274) were added to the housing area along Storey and Ruckman Avenues.

The following buildings were added to the industrial cluster at Battery Dynamite (but were not a part of the original construction for the battery): an Ordnance Shop (No. 1363), a Machine Shop (No. 1365), and a Coast Artillery Powerhouse (No. 1398).

The following buildings, related to industrial uses, were built on the west end of Kobbe Avenue (west of the quarters area): an Ordnance Repair Shop (No. 1339) and a Flammable Storage Building (No. 1338).

## Circulation

### Vehicular Circulation

Roads that existed prior to the construction of Fort Scott included:

- Lincoln Boulevard (originally called McDowell Avenue);<sup>18</sup>
- Roads designed as part of the batteries: the road around Battery Dynamite, the road that provided a connection to Battery Saffold, and two internal roads at Battery Howe-Wagner;<sup>19</sup>
- Roads located to the north (Storey Avenue alignment) and south (Ruckman Avenue alignment) of Battery Howe-Wagner; these two roads provided access to the battery and connections to Fort Scott from the Main Post; and
- Kobbe Avenue (constructed in 1902 when the first two officer quarters were built).

Roads that were part of the Fort Scott construction included: Ralston Avenue, Upton Avenue, Greenough Avenue, Hitchcock Street, and Ruckman Avenue.

### Pedestrian Circulation

A continuous concrete sidewalk outlined the perimeter of the Fort Scott Parade Ground in front of the barracks buildings. Additionally, at least one wood boardwalk crossed the Parade Ground and provided east-to-west connections (U.S. Army 1910).

Concrete sidewalks were built along the south side of Kobbe Avenue, in front of the officer quarters, and along lower Storey Avenue, in front of the noncommissioned officer quarters (Thompson 1997: 424). Due to the steep slope in front of the quarters, in both locations, steps were required to provide the connection between the front of the buildings and the streets.

There was a raised boardwalk that spanned Dragonfly Creek and connected Kobbe Avenue (started across the street from No. 1324) to Upton Avenue (U.S. Army 19100; this walkway was located in the same general vicinity as the present-day concrete and stone sidewalk.

### Vegetation

#### Presidio Forest

By the start of the construction of Fort Scott in 1909, the Presidio forest covered the entire area that was south of Ruckman Avenue and east of Lincoln Boulevard (Hart 1906). The construction of the post necessitated the removal of the trees that were located in the Parade Ground area. The forest provided a background or setting for the new Parade Ground, the Barracks, and the Headquarters Building and helped to orient views out toward the bay and Golden Gate. Trees were removed for the construction of the two quarters areas (along Kobbe Avenue and Storey/Ruckman Avenues). The trees that remained around these areas not only provided a picturesque setting and sheltered the quarters from the wind but also provided a buffer from other areas of the post and afforded the families living there a degree of privacy.

#### Vegetation at Batteries

By the turn of the century, the Army had begun using plants that were drought resistant in an effort to better maintain the slopes of the earthen batteries. Plants were also chosen to pro-

vide some level of camouflage, and trees were planted on the outer slopes to soften the distinction between the batteries and the surrounding forested area. By this date, ice plant had been introduced to the batteries; this plant would eventually spread beyond the confines of the batteries and become a ubiquitous presence along the coastline.

The row of Monterey cypress trees that surrounds Battery Howe-Wagner were in place by 1905 (U.S. Army 1905).

#### Vegetation Features Related to the Construction of Fort Scott

The new post’s commanding officer, Major William C. Davis, was very aware of the image of Fort Scott, and he issued “general orders soliciting the cooperation of everyone to improve and beautify the post” (Thompson 1997: 423). As part of this effort, the Board of Officers made recommendations to set the standards for the appearance of the grounds at Fort Scott in a July 1912 memo. Recommendations for the treatment of Parade Ground and Drill Ground, the location of lawns, the planting of ornamental flowers, the planting trees for erosion control and wind protections, and the establishment of a post nursery were made and carried out (Thompson 1997: 423-24). (A more detailed description is provided in the “Character-Defining Features” section). ).

The board also recommended the establishment of a nursery to provide a continual supply of ornamental plants (this also coincided with the use of vegetation for camouflage at the batteries).<sup>20</sup> This nursery was established (Thompson 1997: 423 and Footnote 814), and, although its location was not labeled

on any source reviewed for this report, it seems likely that it was located in the area just south of Hitchcock Street.<sup>21</sup>

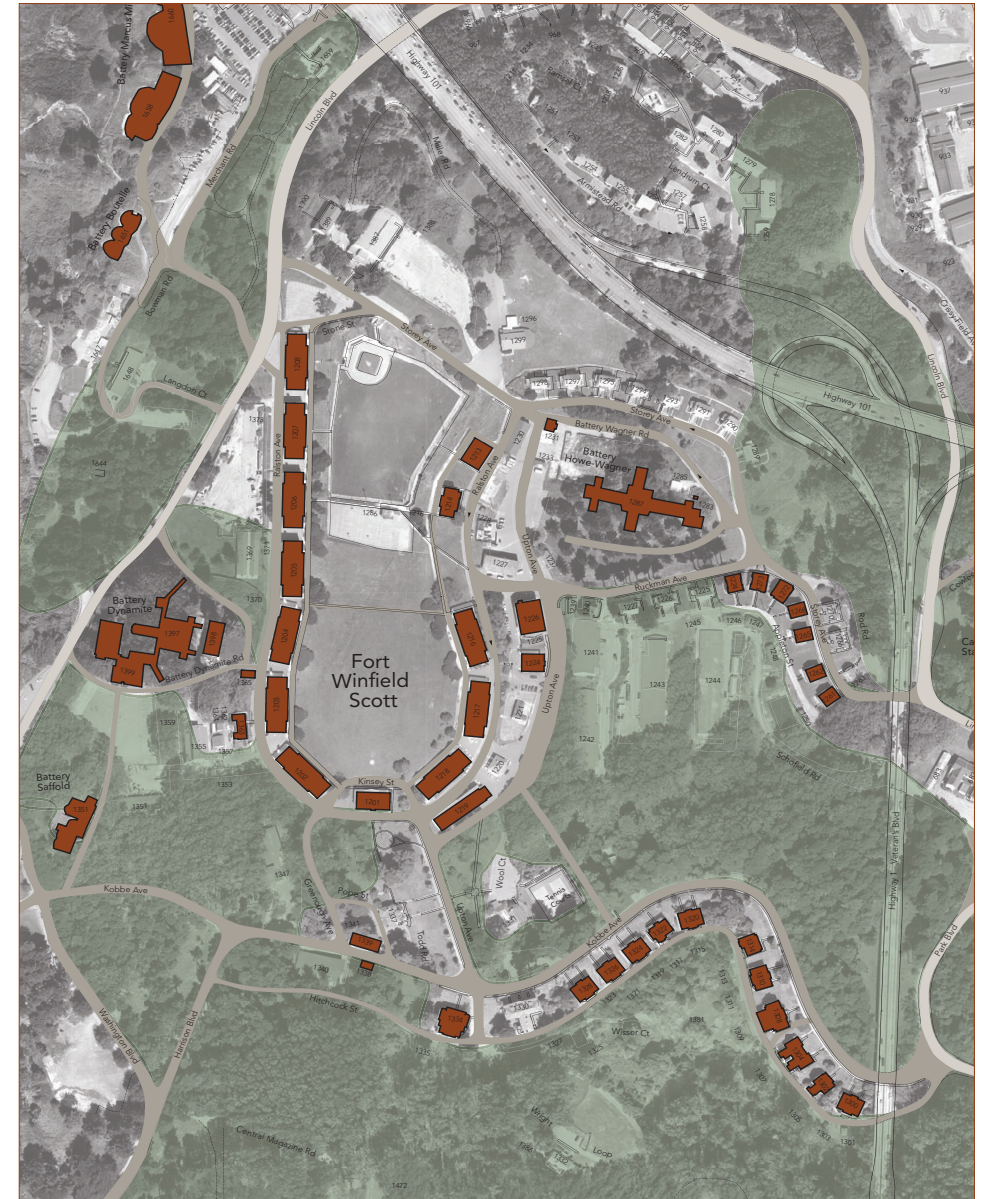
### Water Features

By 1909, there were two different water sources being utilized at Fort Scott:

- Maps from 1870 and 1903 showed a pipeline from Dragonfly Creek connecting to a storage reservoir, north of Battery Howe-Wagner, and from there to officer quarters located north of Lincoln Boulevard, on the bluffs overlooking the marsh (Crissy Field area). By 1909, this reservoir (supplying water to the officer quarters and to the buildings in the vicinity of the Torpedo Wharf) no longer got its water from Dragonfly Creek. Instead, it was linked by pipeline to a storage reservoir located south of Kobbe Avenue, which in turn was linked by pipeline to a water source to the south, probably Mountain Lake or Lobos Creek (this was not shown on the map) (Wheeler 1870, Rickon 1903, and U.S. Army 1909).
- At this time, the water from the Dragonfly Creek source was going via a pipeline to the Main Post area. (The water source is not labeled on the April 1909 approved plan [that was drawn on a map that showed conditions in October 1908]. In the January 1910 plan [drawn on a map showing conditions in August 1909], the water source is labeled as a “well.”) There was a pipeline from the well to a storage reservoir, located just north of Kobbe, in the vicinity of the proposed tennis courts. A windmill, located west of the reservoir, provided power to this system. There was a second pipeline from the well that ran to the northeast toward the cemetery. A rectangular area around the water system at Dragonfly Creek was shown as cleared of trees (U.S. Army 1909 and 1910).



- 20 There were two additional plant nurseries at the Presidio: one located in the vicinity of Tennessee Hollow and one at Letterman Hospital (Thompson 1997: 423 and Footnote 814).
- 21 A short cul-de-sac was shown leading to this area on a 1917 Lighting System plan (and corresponds to the general alignment of Wisser Court). A small rectangular area had been cleared of trees and fenced on a 1922 map of this area; this clearing was not shown on the survey map prepared in 1906 (Hart 1906). By 1927 (visible in the 1927 aerial photograph), a larger area of trees have been cleared south of Hitchcock Street (possibly indicating that the nursery area had expanded). A greenhouse (originally No. 214 in older numbering system; No. 1329 in current system) was already in place in this area before the garden walls, paths, parterre beds, and fountain were constructed by the WPA in 1938-39.



**Plan of Ft. Scott, 1891-1914 development**  
Buildings shown in red were constructed in this time period.





# World War I (1915–1918)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

Training for the Coast Artillery continued at Fort Scott during World War I, and two cantonments (Lancaster Cantonment and the Enlisted Specialist School) were built in the vicinity of Fort Scott's Drill Field. However, the number of coast artillery companies stationed at Fort Scott declined: the 13<sup>th</sup> Company was transferred to Fort Miley; the 64<sup>th</sup> Company was sent to Calexico, California; and the 61<sup>st</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> companies transferred to France after training

(Thompson 1997: 430 and U.S. Army 1917).

# Summary of Changes to the Cultural Landscape During World War I

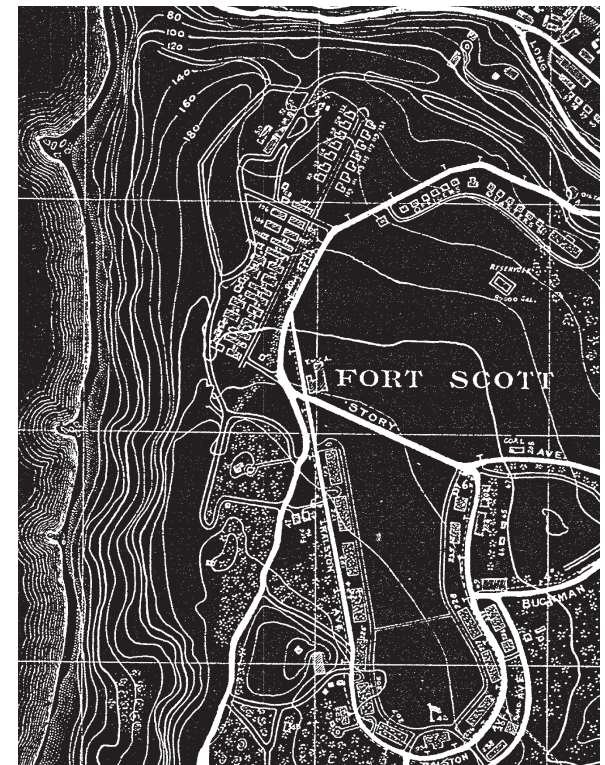
The main spatial organization at the post remained in place.

## Topography

The buildings for the two cantonments were built north of the intersection of Storey Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard. Lancaster Cantonment was laid out in a linear arrangement along a straight road just northwest of Lincoln Boulevard; it consisted of 14 barracks, seven messes, seven latrines, two enlisted bachelor officers' quarters, and 14 officers' quarters. The Enlisted Specialist School was located to the south of Lancaster Cantonment; there were 2 buildings on the north side of Lincoln Boulevard and 17 buildings (probably barracks and latrines) across the street on the south side of Lincoln Boulevard. Additionally, there was a "YMCA" located on the northeast corner of Storey Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard.

- The commanding officer quarters (No. 1337) on Upton Avenue was constructed in 1915. The house faced east and overlooked the ravine (Dragonfly Creek) where the new officer recreation area (with the officer club and tennis courts) was located.
- A new bachelor officer quarters (No. 1330) was added to the west end of the row of officer quarters on Kobbe Avenue.
- In recognition of the growing importance of the automobile, six garages (Nos. 1305, 1307, 1313, 1315, 1317, and 1319) were built on Hitchcock Street for the Kobbe Avenue quarters.

- A quartermasters office (No. 1220), a quartermasters shop and paint shop (No. 1227), and a warehouse (No. 1230) were added to the area between Ralston and Upton avenues.



**Above Bottom**  
Ft. Scott plan, 1922, showing Lancaster Cantonment north of the Parade ground.



- A small flammable storage shed (No. 1245) was built south of Ruckman Avenue in an isolated location (probably due to the nature of the use of the building).
- A warehouse, used for ordnance storage (No. 1340), was built on the west end of Kobbe Avenue.
- There were several store rooms structures located on the south side of Battery Dynamite Road; these are no longer extant.

## Circulation

### Vehicular Circulation

A new road was built at Lancaster Cantonment; this road was located in the same area as the present-day alignment for Merchant Road.

By 1917, there was a short service road (in the same general area as Wisser Court).<sup>1</sup> If the post's nursery was indeed located

south of Hitchcock Street, then this road probably provided vehicular access to this area.

### Pedestrian Circulation

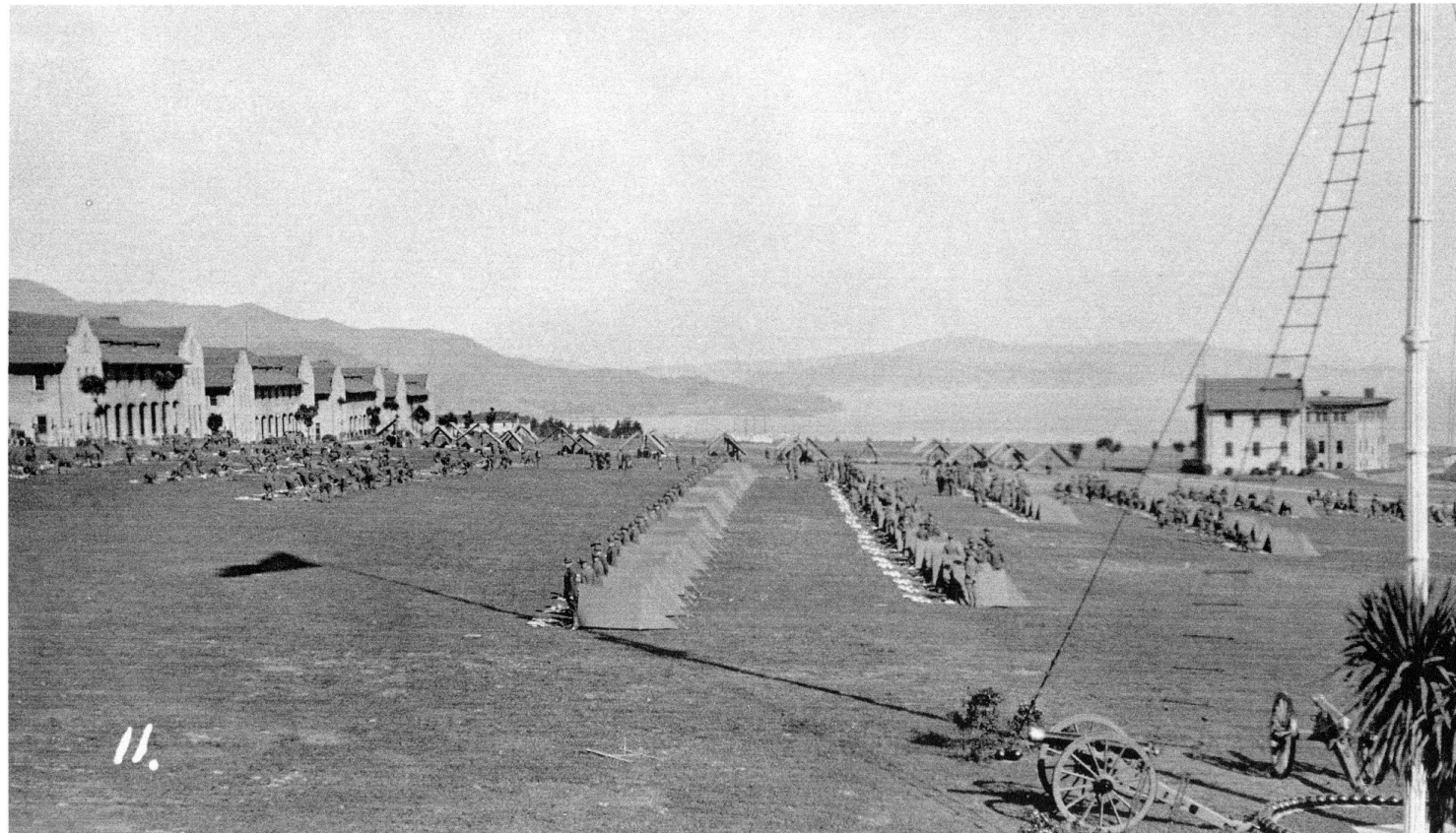
By 1917, there was an unpaved pedestrian path from the Kobbe Avenue officer quarters south to Washington Boulevard.

## Vegetation

There were no major changes to the vegetation features at Fort Scott during the World War I period. The trees in the Presidio forest continued to mature, and the forested area expanded through the natural reproduction or regeneration of the trees.

## Water Features

A 1917 map identified the same three storage reservoirs (one to the south of the Kobbe Avenue quarters area [outside of the study area for the Fort Scott CLA], the one just north of Kobbe Avenue, and one south of Lincoln Boulevard) as had been shown on the January 1910 plan for the post (U.S. Army 1910 and 1917).



Parade Ground looking north, c. 1918.

<sup>1</sup> The 1993 NHLD update listed the date of construction for Wisser Court as 1940 (NPS 1993 Section 7: 197). Although this may have been when the road was named or paved, based on its appearance on the 1917 map, it existed during this World War I period.





**Plan of Ft. Scott, 1915-1918 development**  
Buildings shown in red were constructed in this time period.

# Military Affairs Between World Wars (1919–1940)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

During the years between the two world wars there were both large scale and small scale changes to the cultural landscape at Fort Scott. The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930s added major structures to the Fort Scott landscape. The Works Progress Administration provided funding for smaller scale projects that were directed at improving the appearance and image of the post.

# Golden Gate Bridge Construction

The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and the viaducts for Doyle Drive (U.S. Highway 101) and Park Presidio Boulevard (State Highway 1) introduced new structures into the cultural landscape, resulted in the destruction of batteries (and related changes to topography), and altered the spatial organization, circulation system, and views at Fort Scott. The plan for the bridge, to provide a connection between San Francisco and the growing communities in Marin County, was conceived in the early 1920s and was approved in 1930. Construction began in 1933, and the bridge was dedicated on 28 May 1937.

# Seacoast Fortifications

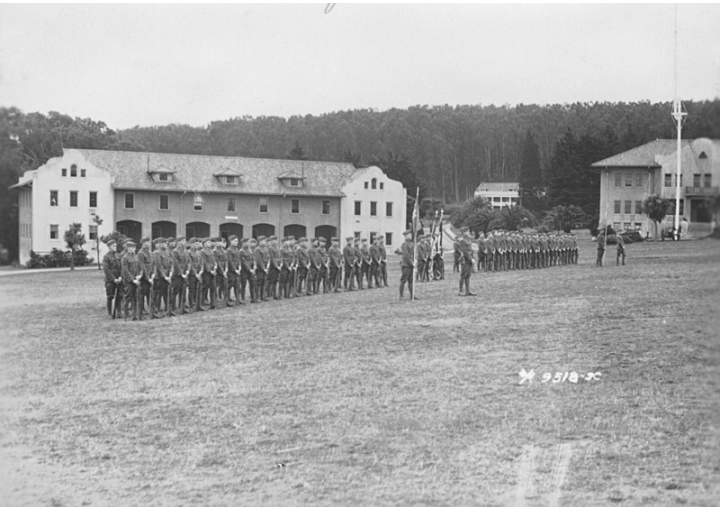
During this period, there were incremental changes to various features of the seacoast fortifications at Fort Scott. Immediately after the end of World War I, several of the batteries at Fort Scott were declared obsolete and their artillery was removed. The obsolete mortars at Battery Howe-Wagner were removed in 1920, and the battery was then used as a storage site. Additionally in 1920, the guns at several other batteries (Baldwin, Blaney, Sherwood, and Marcus Miller), located outside of the study area for the Fort Scott CLA, were also removed.

At the end of World War I, Battery Dynamite became the central, fire control station for Fort Scott (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 18). As part of this adaptation, a fire control switchboard and a post telephone switchboard were installed, and two of its rooms were converted into sleeping quarters (Thompson 1997: 408). A searchlight repair shop (No. 1353) was added to the southern edge of the industrial complex located just south of Battery Dynamite.

As the result of the use of airplanes during World War I, two 3-inch anti-aircraft guns were added to Battery Godfrey (these were removed five years later). In 1920, the 14th and 24th Balloon Companies arrived in San Francisco. Both companies were initially housed in the World War I Lancaster Cantonment, located north end of the Parade Ground, while stations were being built for the two companies. The station for the 14th Balloon Company was located in the far southwest corner of the post (outside of the study area for the Fort Scott CLA) just north of Lobos Creek. The facility consisted of a hangar for the balloons, hydrogen generator house, and field; construction was completed in 1921. The facility for the 24th Balloon Company was located Fort Barry (Thompson 1997: 410).<sup>1</sup>

# Works Progress Administration Projects

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was a New Deal response to the rampant unemployment in the country’s urban areas during the Depression and operated from 1935 to 1943. The agency financed up to eighty percent of the cost of projects, and, in general, used the greatest portion of its funding to undertake highly visible projects. These projects utilized local materials and were labor intensive — thereby providing extended employment to unskilled and skilled laborers (Cutler 1985: 80). The WPA undertook a wide range of different types of projects in San Francisco, but the majority of its funding was dedicated to public works (for roads, sidewalks, or utilities) and improvements to the city’s park and recreation facilities. WPA projects were also used to complete the construction of utility features for the new Golden Gate Bridge.



Parade Ground, 1932.

<sup>1</sup> The combined cost for the two balloon stations was \$210,000. Construction of the facilities for the 14th Company involved “clearing trees, grading, and hauling out rock (to Crissy Field)” (Thompson 1997: 410); none of which impacted any of the cultural landscape within the study area for the Fort Scott CLA. The facility is visible and labeled on the 1927 aerial photograph of the post. On the 1938 aerial photograph, the hangar is no longer extant (although its foundation is still visible). A 1948 aerial photograph shows additional buildings in this area. On a 1951 map of the post, this area is labeled as the “Motor Pool.”





**Above Top**  
Ft. Scott chapel, no date.



**Above Bottom**  
Ft. Scott band, c 1934.

The Army sponsored a wide range of WPA projects at Fort Scott beginning as early as 1935 and continuing through 1939.<sup>2</sup> A report that summarized the progress of all WPA projects in San Francisco, from October 1935 through the end of 1937, listed seven different projects at Fort Scott.<sup>3</sup> Work included remodeling at some of the barracks; the construction of a “log cabin” and a “circular band stand;” leveling the “lower half” of the Parade Ground so that the “Lower end of [the] field will be a ball diamond with [a] backstop and grandstand;” widening Lincoln Boulevard; and widening existing roads, paving previously unpaved roads, and constructing new roads (WPA 1938: 88-95).

In 1938 and 1939, the work continued at Fort Scott as part of a WPA project that included work for Forts Scott, Miley, and Funston (WPA Project No. 705-08-2-11/ Work Project No. 91-10060).<sup>4</sup> This work began in August 1938 and ended in early November 1939. The “Final Narrative Report” noted that the following work had been undertaken at Fort Scott: renovations to the barracks and to both of the quarters areas; repair of roads; construction of the stone walls and gutters and concrete walks and stairs at the Officer Quarters area on Kobbe Avenue and around the Officer Club; and various small landscaping and gardening projects.

## Summary of Changes to the Cultural Landscape Between Wars

### Spatial Organization

The three major clusters of buildings (Parade Ground and barracks, Kobbe Avenue officer quarters, and Storey Avenue non-commissioned officer quarters) as well as the officer recreation area and three batteries (Howe-Wagner, Safford, and Dynamite) remained distinct features. The two quarters areas were expanded when additional residences were built and when the features in the garden area south of Hitchcock Street were formalized as part of the WPA projects. The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge (specifically the roads that were built to provide connections to the bridge) altered the following characteristics: Fort Scott’s relationship with the natural landscape features that had dictated its original location and up until this point had defined edges; the function of its circulation routes; and the views to the north and east.

<sup>2</sup> Two sources provided information on the WPA projects at Fort Scott: 1) the Report on Progress of the Works Program in San Francisco (WPA 1938) is a summary report of WPA projects in San Francisco through 1938 and provides a short description of the projects at Fort Scott and 2) a microfilm of the official WPA paperwork for the projects at Fort Scott in the collections Presidio Trust (WPA 1939).

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix A for the complete text of these projects.

<sup>4</sup> The budget for the combined projects at the three posts was \$842,631.00. Of this amount over 86 percent was spent on labor and the remaining 14 percent on “Nonlabor.” There was a separately funded project at the Presidio (Official Project No. 705-08-2-10/Work Project No. 91-10059) (WPA 1939).

Fort Scott had been developed to provide housing and administrative services to the various batteries located along the ocean coastline and bay bluffs. However, after the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and its connecting roads, Fort Scott's geographic and visual connections to the Golden Gate and the bay were less apparent.

Prior to the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge, the north and west boundaries of Fort Scott were defined by the edges of the coastal and bay-side bluffs, respectively. The Bridge and its connecting roads altered these relationships.

- Doyle Drive (U.S. Highway 101) was designed to provide a connection from San Francisco streets to the bridge and was located along the edge of the bluff that ran along the north side of the peninsula (immediately north of the noncommissioned officer quarters on Storey Avenue). This new road physically separated Fort Scott from the Crissy Field officer housing (this area is outside of the CLA study area) to the north and visually separated Fort Scott from the bluff and bay. Doyle Drive became, in effect, the northern boundary for Fort Scott. (Doyle Drive had the same effects at the Main Post, Quartermaster, Letterman, and Crissy Field areas of the Presidio.) Trees (predominantly eucalyptus trees) and other vegetation were planted along both the north and south sides of Doyle Drive. As these trees matured, they further obscured the views and the visual connection from Fort Scott's Parade Ground to the Golden Gate and the bay.
- The Park Presidio viaduct (State Highway 1) was located along the east side of Fort Scott. After its construction, it separated the post from the rest of the Presidio (to the east) and cut off views to the bay.

### Topography

The construction of Doyle Drive altered the topography along the bluffs that overlooked the bay and resulted in the burial of Batteries Slaughter and Baldwin and the partial destruction of Battery Lancaster. (The locations of these batteries are outside of the study area for the Fort Scott CLA.)

### Clusters and Buildings/Structures

Buildings and structures were removed during this period to make way for new features. The two World War I cantonments facilities were both gone by the end of this period. The buildings for the Enlisted Specialist School located south of the curve of Lincoln Boulevard were not shown on an August 1918 plan for the post (U.S. Army 1918) and would have had to have been removed to make way for the construction of the Crissy Field Officer Quarters (completed in 1921). The south portion of the Lancaster Cantonment was not shown on the same 1918 plan. Some of the remaining quarters on the north end are visible in a 1927 aerial photograph, but these buildings were in the construction path for the Golden Gate Bridge and were removed in the mid-1930s when the bridge was under construction.<sup>5</sup>

During this period, the noncommissioned officer quarters area along Storey and Ruckman avenues was expanded. There were two periods of construction activity – one immediately following World War I and then another during the 1930s as part of the various WPA projects.

- In 1921, the noncommissioned officer quarters area along lower Storey Avenue was expanded. Three new quarters (Nos. 1263, 1266, and 1270) were built on the northeast side of the street and faced the ones that had been built on the southwest side of the street in 1909–10. After the construction of these new



**Above Top**  
Log Cabin, c. 1938.

**Above Bottom**  
Officer's Recreation Center, c. 1930.

<sup>5</sup> One of the WPA projects in 1938 involved the removal of "four war time Officer Quarters," and Thompson thought this possibly referred to remaining Lancaster Cantonment buildings (WPA 1938: 85 and Thompson 1997: 464).



**Right**

Parade grounds awards ceremony, c. 1940.

**Below**

Parade grounds flagpole, c. 1935.



residences, there were now buildings on both sides of the street, and this quarters area became a more self-contained cluster that was oriented inward (toward the street); this enhanced the importance of the streetscape in this area.

- In 1933, eight quarters (Nos. 1289, 1290, 1291, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1297, and 1298) were built north of Battery Howe-Wagner on upper Storey Avenue. South of the battery, three new quarters (Nos. 1275, 1276, and 1277) were added to the row of residences along the south side of Ruckman Avenue. After the addition of these quarters, the battery was a less dominant presence.
- In 1933, a small garage (No. 1285) was built in Pit A at Battery Howe-Wagner, and a storehouse (No. 1233) was added on the western edge of the battery. Additionally, during the WPA work, a children's playground was built at the battery.
- A noncommissioned officer club (No. 1299), located to the northwest of No. 1298 on upper Storey Avenue, was built in 1937. This club, known as the "Log Cabin," was built as part of one of the WPA projects at Fort Scott.<sup>6</sup>

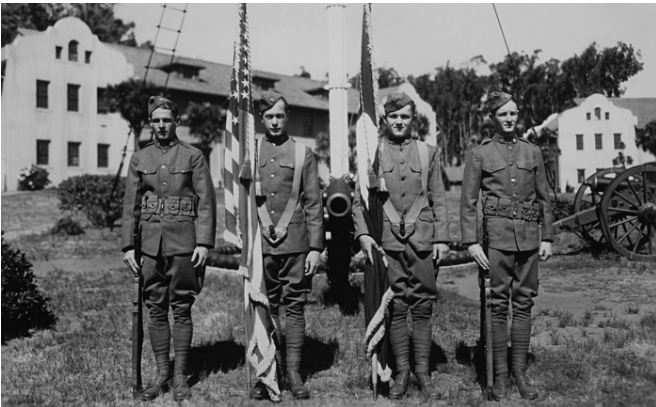
There were two periods of construction activity in the officer quarters area along Kobbe Avenue – one immediately following World War I and then another during the last years of the Depression.

- In 1919-21, several garages were added on Hitchcock Street for the Kobbe Avenue quarters (Nos. 1311, 1323, and 1335).
- Then in 1940, two more garages were built on Hitchcock Street (Nos. 1301 and 1303), and a five-car garage (No. 1327) was built on Wisser Court.

The community and recreational facilities were expanded, many as part of work done under WPA projects:

- In 1921, an Officer Recreation Center (No. 1331) was constructed in the community recreation area located north of Kobbe Avenue; the building appears to have been expanded between 1935 and 1936; and a glass porch was added to this building as part of a WPA project in the late 1930s (WPA 1938: 85). The tennis courts, bandstand, and boardwalk in this area were built between 1910 and 1917.
- By 1934, there were tennis courts, for the noncommissioned officers, located behind (southwest) of the quarters (No. 1261) at the east end of Storey Avenue.
- A playground was built at Battery Howe-Wagner (WPA 1938-39); no location was provided in the reference.
- The north end of the Parade Ground was leveled and grass was planted, as part of the WPA projects in the late 1930s, so that this area could be used as a baseball field (WPA 1938: 87).
- Paths and parterre planting beds were laid out in the area south of Hitchcock Street east of the greenhouse, and additional work was done on repairing the greenhouse ("Install masonry ramps and pool at Green House" and "Greenhouse (214) replace broken window glass, construct masonry stairs, paint"). Although, the WPA reference provided only a limited description of this work, these features remain in place today, and the stone work is similar in appearance and workmanship to that in the other stone features (walls, steps, paths) along Kobbe Avenue.

A searchlight repair shop (No. 1353) was added to the southern edge of the industrial complex, located between Battery Saf-fold and Battery Dynamite, in 1939.



**Above Top**  
Day Room in the typical Ft. Scott barracks.

**Above Bottom**  
Color detail, Parade ground, 1931.

6 Given the vast number and the varied locations of WPA projects throughout the nation, there was no predominant or typical style for buildings. The projects tended to reflect either the preferences of the individual designer or the pragmatic limitations of the project (i.e. the skill level of labor force or the available materials). The WPA projects in San Francisco produced buildings that ranged in style from the vernacular Log Cabin at Fort Scott to the Streamlined Moderne Aquatic Park bathhouse to the period revival Community Center Building at the 38th Avenue and Fulton Playground that was designed to look like a Norman cottage.



## Circulation

### Vehicular Circulation

Doyle Drive (completed in 1937) and the Park Presidio viaduct (completed in 1939) were added to the landscape. These two new roads were part of the Golden Gate Bridge circulation system and did not provide circulation within Fort Scott.

In 1935-1936, a drive down to the club (Wool Court) from Upton Avenue and a parking lot (in approximately the same size and shape as the present-day lot) were added.<sup>7</sup>

As part of the various WPA projects at Fort Scott, the following changes were made to the post's road system:

- Lincoln Boulevard was widened from 10 feet to 22 feet.
- The north end of Ralston Avenue was widened and paved.
- A short segment of road was built from the western end of Storey Avenue to Ralston Avenue. This created a triangular-island between Lincoln Boulevard, Storey Avenue, and this new segment. This road was described as a "service road" to barracks No. 1208.
- The areas between the barracks were graded and paved to provide parking.
- The roads at Fort Scott were "upgraded:" existing roads were widened from single- to double-laned; unpaved roads were paved; and "14,000 linear feet of safety fences" were built.<sup>8</sup>
- The stone curbing on the north side of Kobbe Avenue was added as part of the 1938-39 WPA project (WPA 1938-40).

Rod Road, an unpaved service road located behind (northeast) the row of three quarters (Nos. 1263, 1266, and 1270) located on the northeast side of lower Storey Avenue, was in place by 1934 and was probably constructed to provide access to four



#### Right Top

Ft. Scott main entrance at the intersection of Kobbe and Park Blvd., showing WPA era improvements and addition of cannons.



#### Right Bottom

Earlier (pre-1935) photograph of the same entrance, showing pillars which were removed as part of the WPA improvements

garages that were located here (these are no longer extant).

A service road, Appleton Street, was laid out behind (south) of the row of noncommissioned officers quarters on the south side of Ruckman and lower Storey avenues. The date of construction for this road is not certain, but it was probably associated with the construction of the first garages for this area. The road appears on aerial photographs from this era (1927, 1936, and 1938) and on a 1934 map.<sup>9</sup>

### Pedestrian Circulation

During 1938 and 1939, the pedestrian circulation system was enhanced as part of the various WPA projects. The following specific locations were identified as areas where “rubble masonry walls” were built:

- In the N.C.O Club parking area (Log Cabin).
- In the quartermaster parking area at Upton Avenue.
- On south side of Kobbe Avenue in front of Officer Quarters.
- On south side of Kobbe Avenue near No. 1334.
- At the Commander's Quarters (No. 1337) and along Kobbe Avenue.
- Concrete steps with “rubble masonry walls” were built Upton Avenue down to the Officers Club.
- Around the parking lot and on the sides of steps on the north side of Kobbe Avenue near the Officer Club.
- At the Officer Club parking area.
- At the community garden area (south of Hitchcock Street) a path system and improved access to the greenhouse were added.

The WPA records did not mention of the construction of: the stone walls and paths around the tennis courts; the replacement of the boardwalk from Kobbe Avenue to Upton Avenue with stone walls, walk, and stairs; or the construction of the stone bridge, that spans Dragonfly Creek. However, their appearance is the same as the other stone features that were built by the WPA and it seems reasonable to conclude that these features were constructed as part of the WPA projects.<sup>10</sup>

Work was done on the concrete pedestrian circulation features as part of the 1938-39 WPA projects and included:

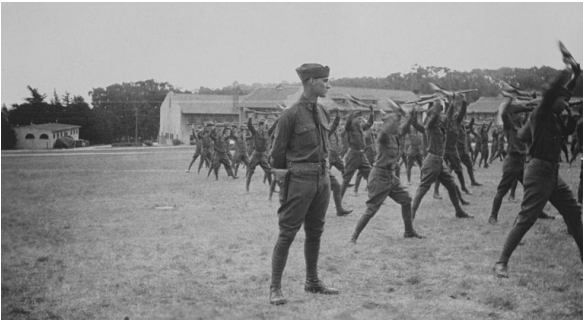
- Repair to the existing concrete walks and stairs (in unspecified locations);
- Construction of “seven sets of concrete service steps on Kobbe Avenue;” and
- Construction of concrete retaining walls (in unspecified locations).

7 The 1993 NHLD update listed the date as 1940. Although this may have been when the road was named or officially added to the post's facility's list, this road and parking lot appear on a 1936 aerial photograph.

8 The locations for this fencing were not specified, but the “Final Narrative Report” (WPA 1939) noted that “guard rails” were added along Lincoln Boulevard, and this may refer to the same fencing.

9 The 1993 Presidio NHLD update listed its date as 1941 (NPS 1993 Section 7: 195). Although this may have been when the road was named or paved, it was laid out and in use earlier than 1941.

10 In landscape-related projects, stone work was often “the tell-tale sign” of WPA projects (Martensen 1979:77). The “[s]tone not only suited the landscape architect's inclination toward the rustic, but also satisfied the economic prerequisites of the job” (Martensen 1979:77). There are numerous examples of WPA-built stone walls, steps, and curbs throughout San Francisco, including the ones at Fort Scott. Other examples can be found on Telegraph Hill, at Stern Grove, at Buena Vista Park, and at the San Francisco zoo.



**Above Top**  
Parade ground exercises, late 1930's.

**Above Bottom**  
Soldier on Parade ground, late 1930's.





**Above Top**  
Woman in garden, c 1930.



**Above Bottom**  
Woman on path, c 1930.

## Vegetation Features

New construction resulted in the removal of trees in areas that had previously been forested:

- The expansion of the noncommissioned officer quarters along the south side of lower Storey Avenue and Ruckman Avenue required the removal of a limited number of trees along the edge of the forest at this location.
- The construction of the Park Presidio viaduct (State Highway 1) and the interchange between Doyle Drive and Park Presidio (located just northeast of the noncommissioned officer housing on lower Storey Avenue) required the removal of trees along the construction corridor.

Doyle Drive was built just north of the new row of noncommissioned officer quarters on upper Storey Avenue. The Army used WPA funds to “landscape” the areas that bordered the north and south sides of the viaduct, where it passed through the northern portion of Fort Scott. The WPA records described this work as involving the:

. . . portion of military reservation surrounded by Lincoln Boulevard and Storey Avenue, and containing approximately 26.4 acres. Work consists of excavation, borrow and fill, covering portions with top soil, planting grass, trees and shrubbery, sodding sloping and terracing banks, all without changing the natural contour of the area (WPA 1938: 93).

The Army took advantage of the funding provided through the WPA to enhance the visual appearance of Fort Scott. The WPA records described this work as “landscaping & gardening,” “trim top & fell trees,” and “haul & burn brush & debris” without providing any details or locations for this work (WPA 1939).

## Water Features

The Army took advantage of the WPA funding to undertake “general repairs to ditches, culverts, gutters, and catch basins;” the locations for this work were not identified in the WPA records (WPA 1939).

A small, stone reflecting pool or fountain was built by the WPA in the community gardens area (WPA 1939).



**Plan of Ft. Scott, 1919-1940 development**  
Buildings shown in red were constructed in this time period.

# World War II (1941–1945)

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

By World War II, “the fifty-year-old Endicott batteries were becoming obsolete, especially after the United State’s victory at the Battle of the Midway in 1942 when the threat of a Japanese invasion of the West Coast faded” (Thompson 1997: 413).



In 1943, six batteries at Fort Scott were disarmed, and their outdated guns were salvaged for wartime scrap drives (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 28); the batteries included Batteries Saffold, Chamberlain, Godfrey, Cranston, Stotsenberg-McKinnon, and Crosby (all but Battery Saffold are outside of the study area of the Fort Scott CLA). At Fort Scott, only Battery Chamberlain remained armed.

During World War II, the command center for the Harbor Defense Command Post/Harbor Entrance Command Post (HDCP/HECP) was located at Battery Dynamite (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 27). From here “army and navy senior staff coordinated their resources both to defend the bay against enemy sea or air attack (the Army’s role) and also to track and coordinate all shipping traffic in and out of the Golden Gate (the navy’s responsibility)” (NPS Seacoast Defense – Fortress San Francisco). A .50-caliber machine gun was mounted on top of the battery as part of the anti-aircraft defense at Fort Scott (Thompson 1997: 412).

## Summary of Changes to the Cultural Landscape During World War II

### Spatial Organization

Although, the three distinct building clusters (Parade Ground, Kobbe Avenue officer quarters area, and noncommissioned officer quarters to the east of the Parade Ground) remained, the addition of new buildings during World War II infilled open areas that had previously provided a degree of separation between these areas.

The new warehouse area south of Appleton Street and buildings added along Upton Avenue (on the east side of the Parade Ground) resulted in the blending of the non-commissioned officer quarters and service/industrial areas on the east side of the Parade Ground. Also, the presence of additional pavement and the loss of trees on the south side of the quarters area contributed to this alteration of the spatial organization.

The new World War II buildings (and associated roads and parking features) filled in the area between the north end of the Parade Ground and Doyle Drive.

### Topography

There were minor topographic alterations related to leveling building sites and constructing Wright Loop, the new road that led to the new officer quarters that was built south of Hitchcock Street.

The sloping grade in the area south of Appleton Street was leveled into a series of three terraces to create building sites for the group of warehouses that were built at this location in 1941.



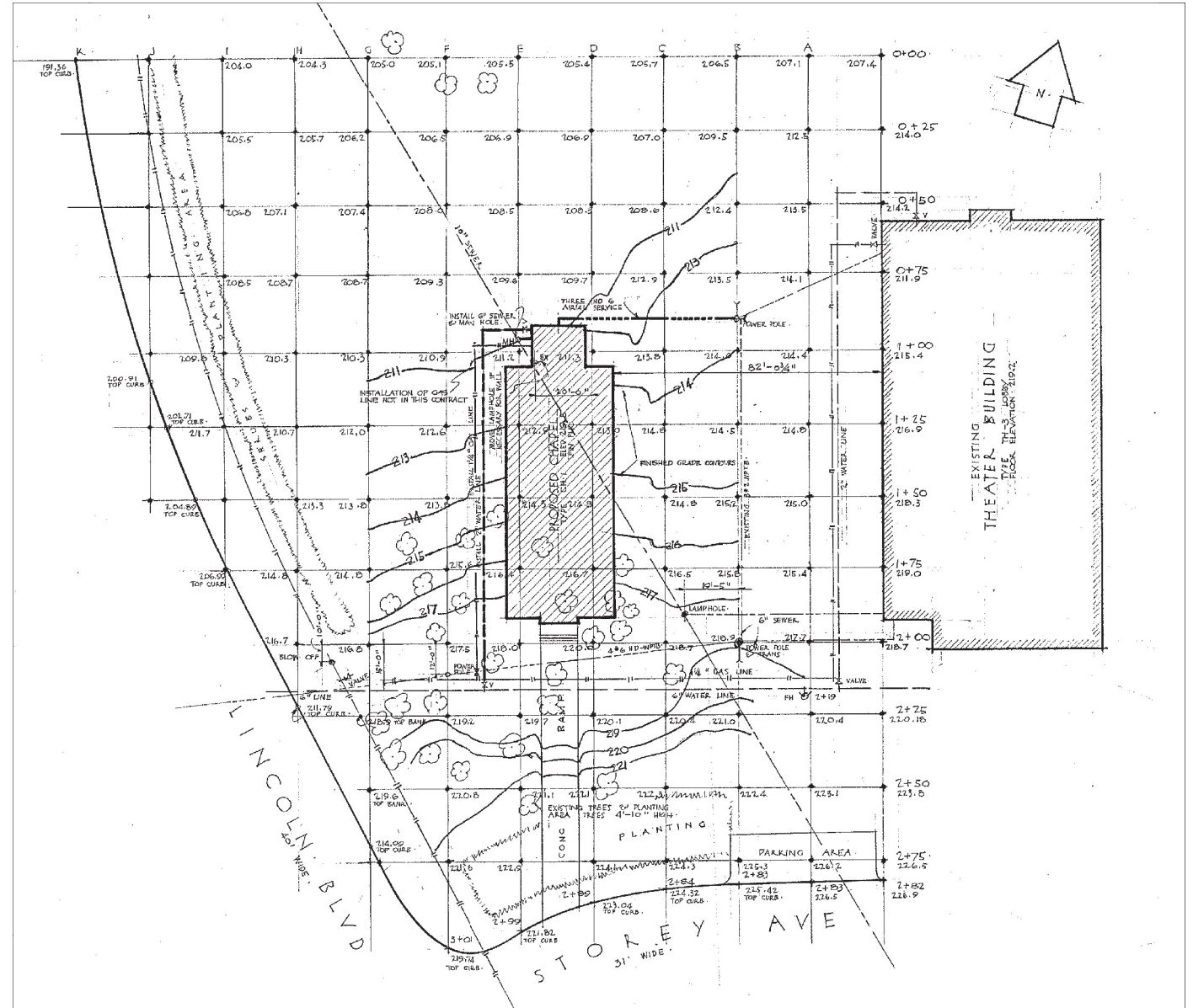
**Above Top**  
Battery bunker, 1941.

**Above Bottom**  
Battery shells, 1941.



**Above Top**  
Battery guns, 1941.

**Above Bottom**  
Battery with camouflage netting, 1941.



Chapel and Theater site plan, 1941.





Parade ground and Batteries Dynamite and Saffold, 1942.

## Clusters and Buildings/Structures

Many of the buildings constructed at Fort Scott were typical of those constructed at military bases throughout the country during World War II. These buildings were based on standard plans designed for quick, inexpensive construction that could be sited anywhere and were stripped of most architectural details. The utilitarian appearance of these buildings contrasted with the architectural character of the original Fort Scott buildings.

North of the Parade Ground:

- A group of support buildings (a theater [No. 1387], a chapel [No. 1389], and a nursery [No. 1390]) were added on the north side of Storey Avenue.
- To the east of this area, the noncommissioned officer open mess annex (No. 1299), known as the Log Cabin, was destroyed by a fire in 1942; however it was rebuilt that same year.

In the area east of the Parade Ground:

- Four multi-car garages (Nos. 1246, 1247, 1248, 1250) were built on the south side of Appleton Street; these garages were for the noncommissioned officer quarters along Ruckman and lower Storey avenues.
- Several small buildings (a gas station [No. 1221], a post exchange warehouse [No. 1225], and a post office [No. 1237]) were built in the area to the east of the Parade Ground along Upton Avenue.
- To the south of the newly-constructed Appleton Street, trees were removed, the sloping grade was leveled into a series of terraces, and four warehouses were built (a post exchange utility warehouse [No. 1241] and three quartermaster storehouses [Nos. 1242, 1243, 1244]).

The following were added to the existing officer quarters area along Kobbe Avenue:

- A new road – Wright Loop – provided access to the new officer quarters (No. 1332) that was built by the Golden Gate Bridge District as compensation for quarters that were destroyed during the construction of the bridge. The new residence, built in 1943, mixed elements of the Modern and Mission or Spanish Colonial Revival styles.
- In 1941, two garages (Nos. 1309 and 1321) were added to the existing row along Hitchcock Street, and a five-car garage (No. 1325) was built directly across from the a similar garage (No. 1327) that had been built the previous year on Wisser Court. All of these garages were used by officers living in the quarters on Kobbe Avenue.
- In 1941, a wood-frame structure, used as bachelor officer quarters (No. 1347), was built on Greenough Avenue just west of the Commanding Officer Quarters.

In the officer recreation area on the north side of Kobbe Avenue, a new double tennis court (No. 1333), that replaced the existing courts, was built to the east of the officer club.

Three structures were added to the industrial area between Batteries Saffold and Dynamite: two ordnance repair shops (Nos. 1355 and 1357) and a boiler house (No. 1359). A building for an indoor shooting range (No. 1369) was constructed just north of Battery Dynamite.



## Circulation

A new road – Wright Loop – was built to provide access to the newly constructed officer quarters (No. 1332). This new road began at the south end of Upton Avenue and extended south of Hitchcock Street.

There were new internal service roads in the new warehouse area south of Appleton Street; these roads connected to the main Fort Scott road system at the intersection of Appleton Street and Ruckman Avenue. The new roads had concrete gutters.

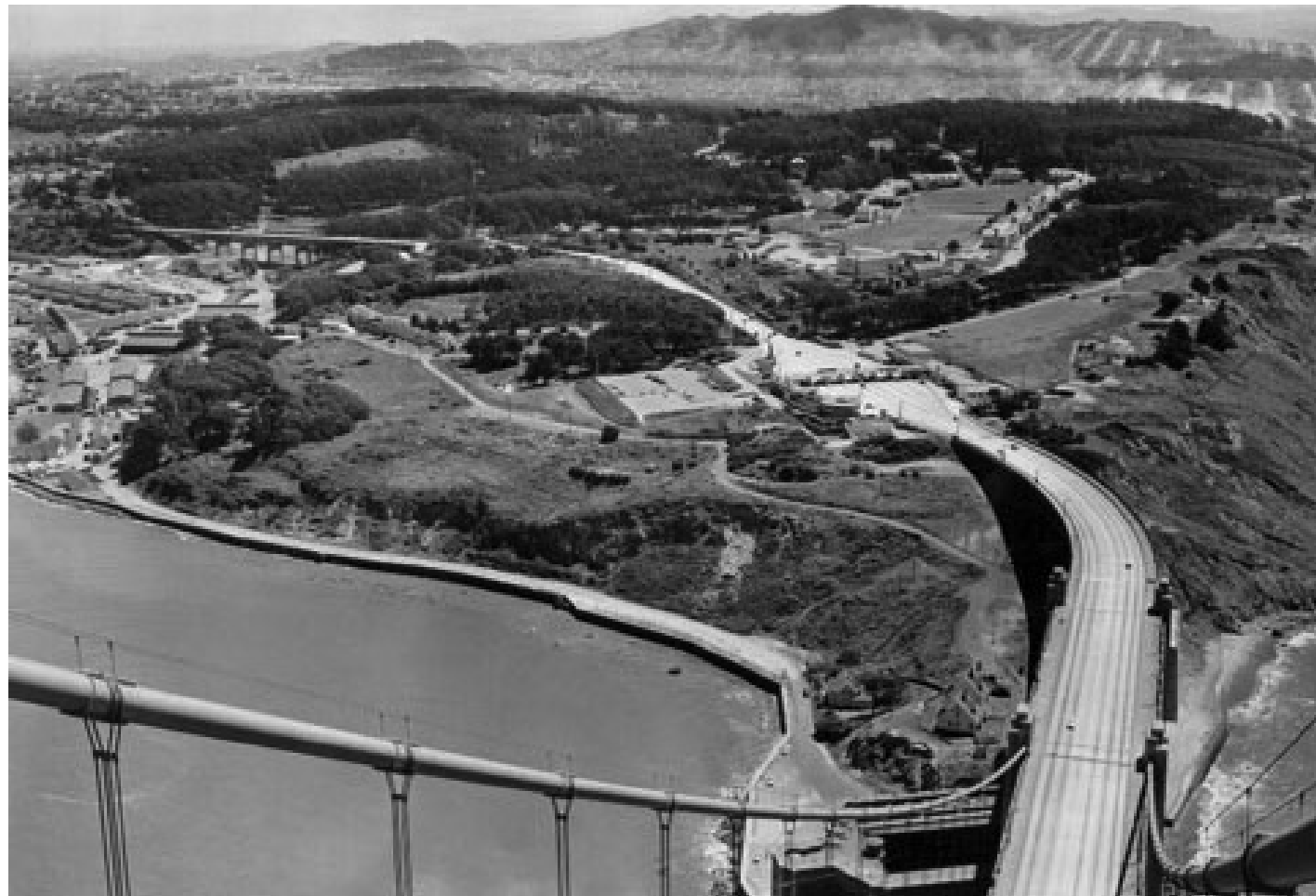
New pavement was added in the area north of Storey Avenue (north of the Parade Ground). A parking lot was built to the east of the theater (No. 1387). At the Log Cabin (No. 1299), there was short cul-de-sac that began at Storey Avenue and provided access to the parking lot; it continued north and dead-ended just south of Doyle Drive.

## Vegetation

A portion of the Presidio forest was removed south of Appleton Street for the construction of the four new warehouses. The removal of these trees removed the sense of enclosure that the forest had provided to the quarters area along Ruckman Avenue and lower Storey Avenue. With the removal of these trees, the views from the backs of these houses now looked directly into the warehouse area.

Trees were also removed to create an oval-shaped open area for the construction of Wright Loop and the new general officer family quarters (No. 1332). New trees were planted along the northeast edge of Wright Loop to replace a portion of the trees that were removed. The pollarded row of sycamore trees, lo-

cated along the north side of Wisser Court, date from this same general period and may have been planted to provide screening between Hitchcock and Wisser (trees were cut in this area to accommodate the construction of Wright Loop).



Ft. Scott from the Golden Gate Bridge, c. 1945.



**Plan of Ft. Scott, 1941-1945 development**  
Buildings shown in red were constructed in this time period.



# Post-1945 Era

## Summary of the Key Events That Shaped the Cultural Landscape

Following the end of World War II, San Francisco's seacoast fortifications system "entered a final stage in which it became solely a means of defending against air attack and not against ships" (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 28). Beginning in 1954, 12 permanent launch sites for the Nike anti-aircraft missile system were constructed throughout the San Francisco seacoast fortification system. One of these, SF-89 or Battery Caulfield, was located on the southern portion of Fort Scott (outside of the study area for the Fort Scott CLA).



The advent of missiles and long-range bombers had rendered the batteries obsolete. In 1947, all of the artillery of the sea-coast defenses were declared surplus, except for new 6-inch and 16-inch guns. Then in 1948, the 16-inch guns were also declared obsolete, and by 1950, all of the weapons had been removed from the batteries in San Francisco's seacoast fortification system. The disarmed batteries were used in a variety of other ways (dormitories, storage, or air raid shelters) or sometimes just left unused and abandoned. At Fort Scott, three of Battery Howe-Wagner's four pits were covered with dirt to create a hill over the battery.<sup>2</sup> Only pit A, remains uncovered and visible. During at least a portion of the Cold War, Battery Howe-Wagner was designated as an air raid shelter for civilians. Additionally, over the years trees (primarily pines) were either allowed to grow or were planted on top of the hill that now covers the majority of the battery (NPS 1999 Chapter 2: 29 and Thompson 1997: 414).

The U.S. Army's Coast Artillery School was transferred from Fort Monroe, Virginia to Fort Scott in 1946. However, the school only operated for a short time, and in 1950, the Coast Artillery disappeared as a separate arm of the military. In 1956, Fort Scott lost its status as an independent post and became, once again, a sub-post of the Presidio (NPS 2006h).

The construction and alterations to the physical features at Fort Scott were minor after World War II but continued the trend of infilling that further eroded the spatial organization in the original plan for Fort Scott:

- In the 1950s, a cold storage warehouse (No. 1296), two paint storage structures (Nos. 1370 and 1371), and a flammable storage structure (No. 1373) were built. In 1951, a fire destroyed



Parade Ground, 1961.





**Above, top**  
Building 1201, c. 1960



**Above bottom**  
Recreation Center and Commanding Officer's Residence (Building 1337) c. 1965.



**Right**  
Ft. Scott aerial view, c. 1960.



officer quarters No. 1290-B on upper Storey Avenue. Playing fields were installed at the end of the Parade Ground during the 1950s (Thompson 1997: 516); this may refer to improvements to the baseball field, that had been added to the north end of the Parade Ground in the late 1930s, and to the addition of basketball courts.

- In the 1960s, the following were added to Fort Scott: a softball field (No. 1215), a volleyball court (No. 1222), an electric power plant (No. 1228), a storage shed (No. 1232), a diesel fuel tank (No. 1260), a motor repair shop (No. 1351), a garden tool shed (No. 1386), and a flammable storage structure (No. 1388) (Thompson 1997: 532).
- In the 1970s, a fuel storage tank (No. 1264), a public toilet (No. 1286), and a chemical training facility (No. 1397) were built (Thompson 1997: 532).

After over 200 years of active service, the Presidio was placed on the base closure list as part of the 1989 Base Realignment and Closure Act.<sup>3</sup> “In October 1994, the U.S. Army lowered its flag for the last time, and the Presidio was transferred to the National Park Service and became part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Because of the former post’s city-like infrastructure, its nearly 800 buildings, and its expansive cultivated forest and natural areas, funding the Presidio’s operation and long-term care was much more costly than traditional parks. In 1996, Congress devised a management and funding model unique among national parks, and created the Presidio Trust to preserve the Presidio’s resources. The Presidio Trust manages the Presidio’s interior lands (known as Area B); this area includes Fort Scott.<sup>4</sup>

A more detailed analysis of the changes in Fort Scott’s cultural landscape after World War II and its condition today is provided in the following “Character-Defining Features” section.



Commanding Officer's Residence (Building 1337), c. 1065.

1 Battery Caulfield, the only Nike site to be named, was named for Lt. Col. Thomas D. Caulfield who was killed in an automobile accident in 1955 (Thompson 1997: 415). In 1974, the Nike batteries were closed.

2 This happened sometime after 1948.<sup>3</sup> In 1962, the historic significance of the Presidio (including Fort Scott) was acknowledged in its designation as a National Historic Landmark District, and in 1993, this nomination was updated.

4 The National Park Service continues to manage the Presidio's coastal areas (known as Area A).





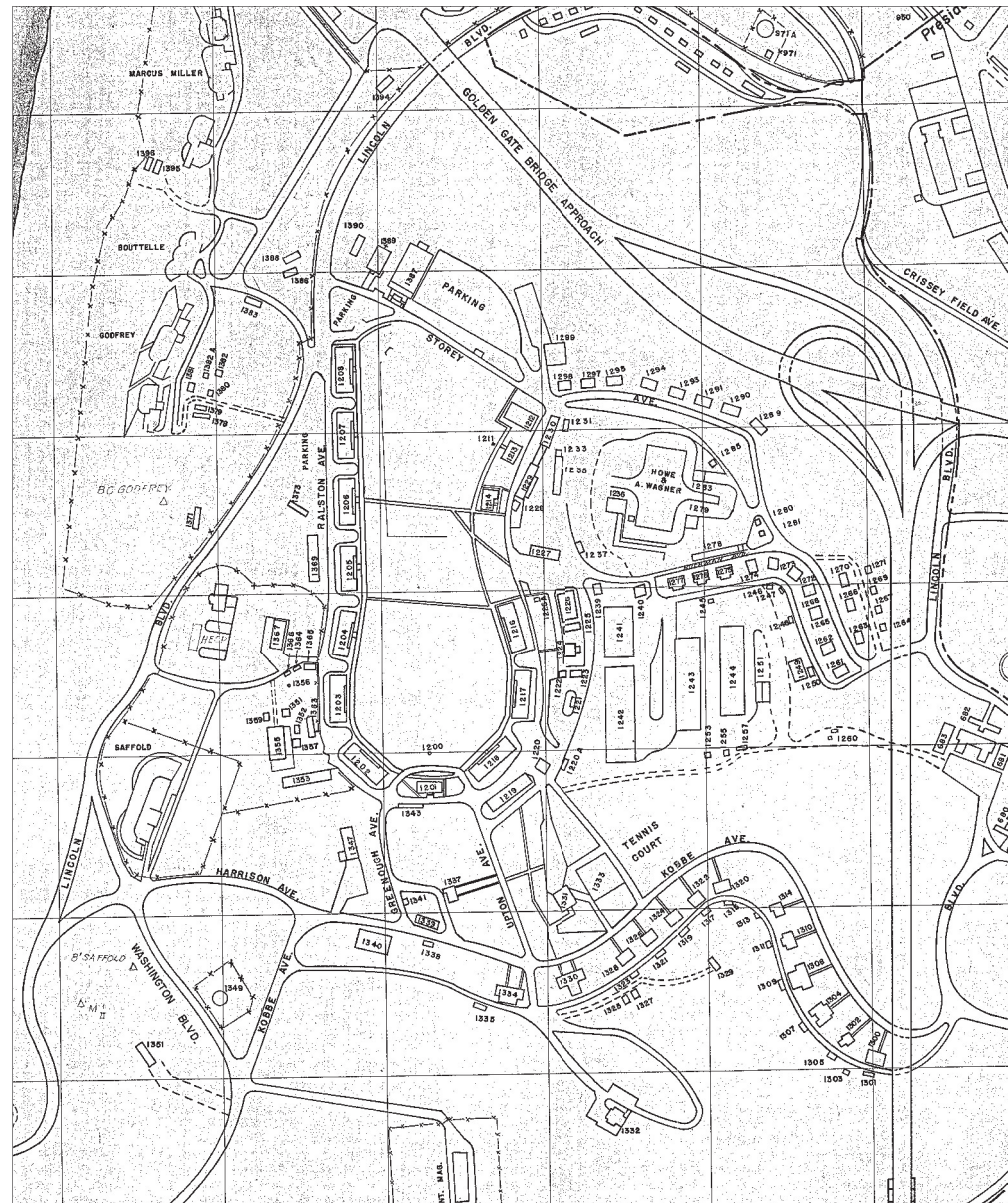
Above  
Parade ground, no date.  
Right  
Parade ground and Battery Howe-Wagner, c. 1960.







Ft. Scott aerial photograph, 1948.



Ft. Scott map, 1949.



# character-defining features







# character-defining features

This chapter provides an analysis of the development of landscape within each of the four planning areas; identifies the character-defining features within each; and provides an analysis of the integrity of these character-defining features. This information provides the foundation for the development of treatment recommendations contained in the following chapter.

# Summary of the Development at Fort Scott

The primary period of development at Fort Scott occurred between 1891 and 1940. It was during this period of expansion that the cultural landscape on the western portion of the Presidio, the area that came to be Fort Scott, was dramatically transformed.

This inclusive period — beginning with the National Expansion period and ending before the start of World War II — 1891-1940 – constitutes the primary period during which Fort Scott’s cultural landscape was established. The analysis, identification of character-defining features, and recommendations for treatment in this CLA are based on recognizing this primary period of significance for Fort Scott within the overall period of significance (1776-1945) for the Presidio of San Francisco NHL.

The 1910 plan for Fort Scott, developed by the Army’s Quartermaster Corps, established the design and planning framework for the initial construction of the post and for its subsequent development. This plan was based on standard Army planning concepts of the period. Buildings or facilities were grouped by function and were sited in response to existing conditions (the location of the seacoast fortifications, Lincoln Boulevard, the topography of the site, and the presence of the Presidio forest) and to the Army tradition of groupings facilities by function and in relationship to the hierarchy within the post. As shown on the 1910 plan for the post, there were three main building clusters: the Parade Ground, surrounded by building’s serving Ft. Scott’s administrative functions, housing for enlisted men, and various support or service functions; housing for officers

along Kobbe Avenue; and housing for the non-commissioned officers along Ruckman and Storey avenues. A fourth area that provided facilities for officer recreation was developed later just north of the officer quarters in a ravine along Dragonfly Creek.

The choices made related to architecture, circulation, and vegetation all contributed to the design and character of the post. Buildings at the post were based on standard Army building types and plans. However, the Army chose to use the Mission Revival style for the core buildings surrounding the Parade Ground. Elements of this style were used in the design of buildings throughout the post and helped to give Fort Scott a distinctive architectural character. Road were laid out in response to the topography of the site. This choice helped to determine the characteristic horseshoe-shaped Parade Ground and resulted in curving roads and corresponding alignment of the buildings in the quarters areas. Pedestrian circulation was clearly delineated in a system of paths and was generally separated from the vehicular circulation.

The Presidio forest played a key role in reinforcing the spatial organization within Fort Scott. Prior to the construction of post, the Presidio forest covered most of the site. Trees were selectively removed to allow for construction of the Parade Ground, roads and building. The forested area that remained created the edges or boundaries for each of the discrete areas and provided a buffer between the various land use areas. From the beginning, the forest was a recognizable component of the character of Fort Scott. On a smaller scale, plantings were key components to establishing the character and feeling of particular areas. Foundation plantings generally reflected the military preference for similarity and order within the landscape, and lawns were used to tie areas together and reflected the commonality of space around the buildings.

The historic development of Fort Scott generally followed the 1910 plan, and today each of the principle areas is still identifiable and retains much of its historic character. The similarity of the architecture within each area, the repetition of features, and the orderly layout of circulation paths and planting beds, in addition to contributing to the character of each area, all represent military planning traditions. The arrangement of the buildings, alignment of the roads, continued presence of the majority of the character-defining features and materials, as well as the limited intrusion of new, non-contributing features and materials are all factors in the retention of Fort Scott’s identity and integrity.

Major changes at Fort Scott that occurred during or immediately after the Period of Significance and have altered the character of the original design include:

- The construction of Doyle Drive and the Park Presidio viaducts have altered Fort Scott’s original connection to the bluffs and its visual and symbolic orientation toward the bay.
- At all three of the batteries with the CLA study area (Batteries Howe-Wagner, Saffold, and Dynamite), the growth of vegetation around and on the batteries has lessened the visibility of these structures and their related topographic features within the landscape. As a result, the connection between Fort Scott and the seacoast fortifications is no longer readily apparent. The existing overgrown condition of Batteries Howe-Wagner and Saffold limits the understanding of the historic function of each within the seacoast fortification system.
- The spatial organization along Ralston and Upton avenues, east of the Parade Ground, has been altered by the addition of buildings and small scale structures. The extensive addition of pavement has resulted in a loss of the original clarity of the circulation routes.



- Four warehouses were added to the area immediately south of the Ruckman and Storey quarters area in 1941. During initial construction phase of the post (1910s), this area was left forested. The sense of enclosure and separation that this stand of trees provided to the non-commissioned officer quarters along Ruckman and Lower Storey avenues was lost when this stand of trees was removed to accommodate the construction of the warehouses. As a result, there is no visual boundary or separation between the residential neighborhood and the warehouse service area.

A more detailed analysis for each of the four planning areas is provided below.

<sup>1</sup> The planting associated with the residences on Kobbe and Storey have typically been replanted and is addressed in other Presidio trust documents, and as such will not be explored here.



# AREA 1

## The Parade Ground and Barracks

### Development of the Parade Ground and Barracks

The Parade Ground planning area includes the horseshoe-shaped area defined by Ralston and Upton avenues as well as the area located between Storey Avenue (at the north end of the Parade Ground) and Doyle Drive. Fort Scott's two major open spaces (the Parade Ground and the Drill Field), its administrative functions, the housing for enlisted men, and various support or service functions were located in this area.

#### Topography

The sloping bluff between the Batteries Dynamite and Saffold (to the west) and Battery Howe-Wagner (to the east) was centrally located to the Coast Artillery's existing fortifications (between the long line of batteries along the coast and the four inland batteries). This site and its terrain provided sufficient space to construct Fort Scott's Parade Ground, the functional and symbolic center of the new post.

Topographic modifications south of Storey Avenue included:

- Grading to create a uniform slope for the Parade Ground (sloping down from south to north and from west to east).
- Grading (cut and fill) to accommodate the alignment of the new roads and to level building sites.
- Creating a sloping bank to accommodate the change in elevation between Ralston Avenue (on the east side of the Parade Ground) and Upton Avenue.

Topographic modifications north of Storey Avenue included:

- Grading to create a level area for the Drill Field.

### Spatial Organization and Buildings and Structures

The buildings and associated spatial organization that were part of the 1910 plan for Fort Scott included the following:

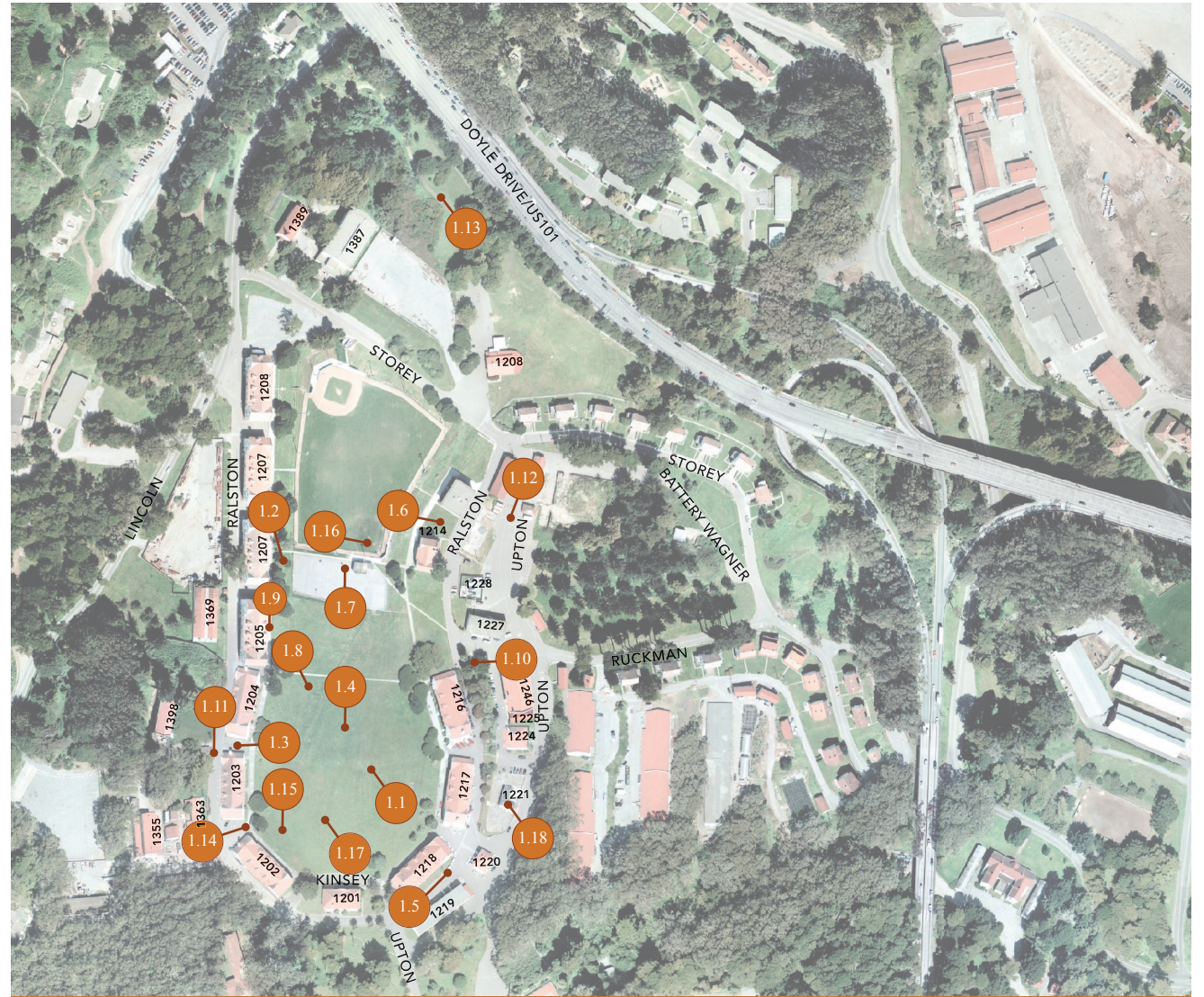
- The buildings surrounding the Parade Ground established the spatial organization of this area. The post's headquarters building and barracks were organized into a row to form a loop that created a horseshoe-shaped interior space (the Parade Ground) that opened to the north. This arrangement took a standard Army form (a Parade Ground lined with buildings) and adapted it to the existing topography of the site (and to the presence of Batteries Dynamite and Saffold to the west and Battery Howe-Wagner to the east). The result was that the core of the post was oriented north toward the Bay.
- The Headquarters Building (No. 1201) was located at the south end of the Parade Ground with its front facing north. Because the north end of the Parade Ground was originally open with expansive views toward the Golden Gate and the Bay, this provided a powerful visual connection between Fort Scott's headquarters and its mission protecting the coastline, harbor, and entrance to the Bay. Buildings that were a part of the initial construction phase of the post included the following: the Headquarters Building (No. 1201), Barracks (Nos. 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1214, 1216, 1217, and 1218), and the Guardhouse (No. 1213).
- The uniform spacing of the buildings (the distance they were set back from the Parade Ground and the space between buildings) as well as their uniform appearance (scale, height, massing, materials, and architectural detailing) were major components of the Parade Ground's identity.





1.1 Looking North across the Parade Grounds. The Parade Ground is uniformly graded from east to west.

1.2 Looking Across basketball court and playground to the south. Trees are typically planted around the perimeter of the Parade Ground.



Area 1 Photographic Key: photographs illustrate the character defining features and the condition of those features. (images included in this section are not meant to be an exhaustive list of all the character-defining features in this area)





1.3 The Barracks Buildings define a consistent edge to the Parade Ground, and the consistent open space between buildings allows for views to the forest beyond.

- The uniform spaces between the buildings allowed for views from the Parade Ground to the surrounding landscape and provided a visual connection with the batteries. Originally, there were no buildings along the northeastern edge, between Barracks 1214 and 1216, roughly at the intersection of Ruckman and Ralston avenues. This space allowed for significant views out to the Bay, toward the city to the east, and to Battery Howe-Wagner.
- A second tier of buildings, arranged in a row that was parallel to the Parade Ground buildings, were located along Upton Avenue (with entrances facing Upton). These buildings housed support functions and their location to the rear of the Parade Ground buildings was an expression of the hierarchy between function and location found on most Army posts. The following buildings were part of the initial construction phase along Upton Avenue: the Quartermaster Storehouse (No. 1219), the Infirmary (No. 1224), and the Exchange Gym (No. 1226).
- There were no buildings north of Storey Avenue in the 1910 plan.

### Circulation Features

Lincoln Boulevard and Storey Avenue were already in place when construction began at Fort Scott, and these two roads were incorporated into the layout of the new post. Lincoln Boulevard formed an outer loop along the north bluffs (overlooking the Bay) and continued south along the coastline. Storey Avenue cut across the north end of the Parade Ground and separated it from the Drill Field area.

The new circulation system that was constructed at the Parade Ground delineated both vehicular and pedestrian access and was laid out to correspond to the location of the buildings around the perimeter of the Parade Ground and in response to the topography of the site.



Vehicular circulation was confined to the perimeter of the new Parade Ground:

- Ralston Avenue provided access to the rear of the buildings that lined the Parade Ground and so was laid out in a loop parallel these buildings (and to the Parade Ground). Its west end intersected with Lincoln Boulevard (this resulted in a triangular-shaped island between Lincoln Boulevard and Ralston Avenue), and its east end intersected with Storey Avenue.
- Because of the slope in the area of the Parade Ground, the second row of buildings was located at a lower elevation (than the Parade Ground). Upton Avenue was laid out, roughly parallel to the east side of Ralston Avenue but at this lower elevation to provide access to the fronts of the second row of buildings. Its south end intersected with the north-south segment of Upton Avenue, and it ended at Ruckman Avenue. (Later the road was extended north to Storey Avenue.) Upton Road provided a clear delineation between this central core of the post and the forested area to the east.
- The narrow drive in front of the Headquarters Building connected at its west end to Greenough Avenue and at its east end to the north-south segment of Upton Avenue.

A system of concrete sidewalks was laid out to provide for pedestrian circulation:

- The primary pedestrian path was a continuous concrete sidewalk that outlined the perimeter of the Parade Ground. There were short connections between this sidewalk and the front entries of the barracks buildings. The Parade Ground sidewalk was wider than secondary paths.
- The 1910 plan showed that two secondary paths were planned to provide east-to-west access across the Parade Ground. These two secondary paths were shown in a linear alignment that was a pragmatic response to providing the most direct route between two points (in this case movement across the Parade Ground).

The southern path intersected on the west side with the Parade Ground sidewalk between Barracks 1204 and 1206; steps provided a connection to the Parade Ground sidewalk. The east side connected to the Parade Ground sidewalk at the north end of Barracks 1216. This sidewalk continued east along the north end of Barracks 1216 and past the north side of the Post Exchange (No. 1226) to connect to the sidewalk along the south side of Ruckman Avenue (that led to the noncommissioned officer quarters). This path across the Parade Ground was labeled as a boardwalk on the 1910 plan but was later replaced with a concrete sidewalk.

The second east-to-west sidewalk intersected on the west side with the Parade Ground sidewalk between Barracks 1207 and 1208 and ended on the east side at the north end of the Parade Ground. It does not appear that this northern path was ever built since it was not shown on subsequent maps of the post.

### Vegetation

#### Presidio Forest

The Presidio forest was a critical part of the design for the Fort Scott’s Parade Ground. When construction started on the Parade Ground in 1909, the forest covered the area south Ruckman Avenue and east of Lincoln Boulevard. Trees were removed to create an open expanse for the Parade Ground. The remaining forest framed the area around the new Parade Ground and oriented views out toward the Bay and Golden Gate.

#### Original Planting Scheme

The Constructing Quartermaster’s 1910 plan for Fort Scott indicated the location of the buildings and the layout of the roads

and sidewalks. However, the guidelines for the use of plant materials at the post were developed by the post’s Board of Officers and described in a memo dated July 1912. This memo provided recommendations related to the location and appearance of lawns, trees, and ornamental plants and reflected the Army’s concern with uniformity and order in the landscape. The change to grass was made at an unknown date.

#### Lawns

Originally, the Parade Ground was oiled and sanded, rather than planted with grass. The reasoning behind this was that grass was considered impractical to maintain, since a lawn would require irrigation and gophers were a problem.

Grass lawns were located: 1) between the front of the Parade Ground buildings and the sidewalk in front of these buildings and 2) between the buildings. By planting grass and maintaining a lawn, a setting was provided for the barracks and the Headquarters Building, and the ground plane surrounding these buildings contrasted with that of the Parade Ground. Additionally, the lawns, along with the buildings and Parade Ground sidewalk, contributed to the border that framed the Parade Ground. On a practical level, the grass areas immediately adjacent to the Parade Ground buildings helped to lessen the problem of sand and dust blowing around (and into) the buildings.

The bank located between the outside of Ralston Avenue and the buildings along Upton Avenue was planted with grass. Additionally, grass lawns were maintained around the buildings along Ralston and Upton avenues and provided a landscape setting for these buildings.

The Drill Field, located north of Storey Avenue north of the Parade Ground, was seeded and maintained as turf.

### Trees

The Board of Officers recommended that “a row of eucalyptus” be planted on the Parade Ground “opposite the intervals between the buildings” about 30 feet in front of the line made by the sidewalk. Although pines were eventually planted in this arrangement, initially, *Cordyline australis* were planted in a loosely defined row around the perimeter of the Parade Ground.

Acacia and low-growing trees and shrubs were planted along the eroded slopes to the north of Drill Field. The trees were part of the recommendations of the Board of Officers memo; however, the board noted that these trees should not be allowed to grow tall enough to obstruct the view of the Bay.

### Foundation Beds

The 1912 Board of Officers memo suggested that a hedge of red geraniums be planted around the edge of the lawn areas around the barracks. Rather than this arrangement, the earliest photographs show a row of low vegetation (that could be geraniums) planted along the foundations of the Parade Ground buildings. Some photographs also show wood trellises on the front façade of the barracks (probably for flowering vines). The varieties of plants and arrangement along the foundations appear to have changed through the years. However, the foundations were typically arranged in either a row or a small group of low shrubs. In some of the photographs, the entries to buildings were framed by a shrub on either side of the entrance.

Today, only remnants of the foundation plantings around the Parade Ground buildings remain in place, and the foundation treatment varies from building to building. The remaining plants do not have the appearance of a deliberate design and do contribute to the repetition of features and the uniform appearance that was part of the Parade Ground image.

### Small-Scale Features

Historical photographs provide the basic source of information on the small-scale features that were a part of the Parade Ground landscape, and these photographs show a number of features that were typical of Army posts. A flagpole was located in front of the Headquarters Building. A circular area around the flagpole was defined by cannon balls, and cannons were placed around this circle. Other artillery-related objects were used to mark the intersections of sidewalks.

An open concrete gutter was laid out parallel to the inside of the Parade Ground sidewalk. On the west side of the Parade Ground, this gutter was located at the base of the slope between the sidewalk and Parade Ground. On the east side (where there was no slope), the gutter was located next to the inside of the sidewalk.





1.4



1.5



1.6



1.7



1.8



1.4 Parade Ground and Building 1201. Primary building entries face towards the Parade Grounds.

1.5 Upton Street showing pavement added in WW II period, which erodes the clear character of circulation features

1.6 View from the Parade Ground towards Battery Howe Wagner.

1.7 North end of Parade Ground showing how added playfield lights obscure the historically open viewshed.

1.8 Parade Ground looking south. The spatial character is defined by the buildings with forest beyond. A continuous sidewalk rings the Parade Ground, with foundation planting between the buildings and sidewalk.



# Character-Defining Features of the Parade Ground and Barracks

Character defining features of the Parade Ground include the following:

## Topographic Modifications

1. A large centrally-located Parade Ground uniformly graded to slope down from south-to-north and from west-to-east.
2. Along the west side of the Parade Ground, the transition between the elevation of the Parade Ground and that of the perimeter sidewalk is accommodated with a uniformly graded bank.
3. Changes in elevation along the edge of the west side of Ralston Avenue are accommodated with a low concrete retaining wall.
4. The transition in elevation between Ralston Avenue and Upton Avenue is accommodated with a graded bank and low retaining walls at the base of the bank.

## Spatial Organization and Buildings/Structures

1. A horseshoe shaped row of buildings defined the perimeter of the Parade Ground with buildings on three sides and an open north end. The alignment of the buildings results in both a uniform set back from the Parade Ground and uniform spacing between the buildings. The buildings are similar in scale, massing, and height and have a consistent appearance all have characteristics and detailing associated with the Spanish Revival style, are painted off-white, and have red-tile roofs. The key feature is the open configuration of the north end of the parade ground, which defines the parade ground's orientation to the Bay and Gate Gate.
2. A second row of buildings along Upton Avenue reinforces the alignment of the Parade Ground buildings and have the same consistent appearance all have characteristics and detailing associated with the Spanish Revival style, are painted off-white, and have red-tile roofs.

3. The alignment for the major circulation features (Ralston Avenue and the Parade Ground sidewalk) reinforces the spatial organization of the Parade Ground and its buildings.

## Vehicular Circulation

Paved roads (Ralston and Upton avenues) correspond to the alignment of the buildings around the Parade Ground and to the topography of the site. Roads provide vehicular access without intruding onto the Parade Ground. Edges of the roads are defined by low concrete retaining walls or concrete curbs.

## Pedestrian Circulation

Pedestrian circulation is separated from the vehicular circulation. While the pedestrian circulation paths are often parallel in alignment to roadways, they are distinguished from the vehicular circulation by their location and materials. Concrete is the primary material used for pedestrian circulation features.

The pedestrian circulation is provided by concrete sidewalks, with grade changes accommodated by concrete steps. The primary pedestrian circulation route is a sidewalk located around the perimeter of the Parade Ground and provides connections to the front entrances of the barracks and the Headquarters Building.

Secondary paths provide access: 1) across the Parade Ground and originally connected to the Ruckman Avenue sidewalk and 2) along the side of Upton Avenue.

The primary pedestrian route, around the perimeter of the Parade Ground, is wider than the secondary paths.

## Vegetation Features

A mass of tall trees (part of the Presidio forest) is located south of the Parade Ground. These trees frame the Parade Ground and focus views northward.

The planting scheme: 1) reinforces the horseshoe-shaped form of the Parade Ground; 2) distinguishes the landscape around the barracks and the headquarters building from that of the Parade Ground (and originally highlighted the distinct functions of these features); 3) creates a setting for the buildings; 4) includes a planted area that separated the buildings from the circulation features; and 5) reinforces the military standard of a uniform and orderly appearance next to buildings.

Character-defining features included:

1. Uniform surface on the Parade Ground e (originally oiled and sanded; later planted with grass).
2. Grass lawn between the Parade Ground sidewalk and the front of the barracks and between the barracks.
3. Grass lawn between the Parade Ground sidewalk and the front of the Headquarters Building and around the sides and rear of this building.
4. Trees planted around the perimeter of the Parade Ground and in groups in front of the spaces between the barracks.
5. Uniform foundation plantings along the front and sides of the buildings facing the Parade Ground. Plants arranged in rows of low vegetation or in small groups of plants at the corners and the entrances of buildings. Entrances accented or framed with shrubs.
6. A lawn or planted area around the secondary buildings (along Ralston and Upton avenues) to provide a separation from the pavement.

Small-Scale Features

- 1. A concrete gutter located around the perimeter of the Parade Ground: on the inside of the sidewalk (east side of Parade Ground) or at the base of the slope next to this sidewalk (west side of Parade Ground).
- 2. A flagpole located at the south end of the Parade Ground in front of the Headquarters Building.
- 3. Presence of cannons, cannon balls, or other artillery as decorative or commemorative features.



1.9 Typical sidewalk and foundation planting adjacent to Parade Ground Buildings.

1.10 The character of secondary circulation features have been obscured by later modifications

1.11 Drainage Channel

1.12 View of Upton and Raiston Street, showing how extensive paving has obscured the site circulation system. The addition of temporary structures during the WWII period has obscured the clarity of the spatial structure.





1.13



1.14



1.16



1.15



1.17

1.13 Trail at the North end of the Ft. Scott study area.

1.14 Typical parking between Parade Ground Buildings.

1.15 Looking south along the Parade Ground showing sidewalks, foundation planting and planting at Parade Ground.

1.16 Looking across the playfield towards Building 1214. Fencing and lights obscure the relationship of the buildings to the ground plane.

1.17 Looking West across Parade Ground with historic Cordyline in foreground.



# Integrity of the Character-Defining Features

## Topographic Modifications

Today, although the current topography around the Parade Ground generally reflects the conditions established during the construction of Fort Scott in the 1910s, there have been changes:

- The most noticeable change to the topography is due to the introduction of the baseball field and basketball courts at the north end of the Parade Ground. The slope was cut on the west side and fill was added to the east side to create a level playing field. This change in topography is confined to the north end of the Parade Ground.

This change was undertaken during the period of significance and have not significantly altered the topographic characteristics of the 1910 plan.

1 The buildings included: a blacksmith shop (No. 1231); a Quartermasters Shop and Paint Shop (No. 1227) located to the north side of Ruckman Avenue in the area between Ralston and Upton Avenues; two warehouses were added to the east side of Ralston Avenue at its north end (only No. 1230 is extant); and several small (non-extant structures) just west of Battery Howe-Wagner.

2 During World War I, two cantonments were built north of the intersection of Storey Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard (in the area northwest of the Drill Field). Neither of these clusters had a lasting impact on the landscape and were removed during the period of significance.

## Spatial Organization and Buildings/Structures

Today, the original buildings remain in place, but there have been some alterations to the spatial organization of the Parade Ground area.

- There is a recreational complex at the north end of the Parade Ground. A baseball field was added to this area in the late 1930s (and a more informal baseball diamond is visible on a 1927 aerial photograph). The basketball courts, a bathroom facility (No. 1286), the fencing for both the basketball courts and the baseball field, and the lights for the baseball field were added after the period of significance. These features clutter and truncate the views along the Parade Ground's north-south axis. In fact, the bathroom structure (No. 1286) is located directly on this axis/sightline with the front of the Headquarters Building.
- The views from the Parade Ground to the surrounding area are blocked by the pines that are located (on the Parade Ground) in front of the intervals between the barracks. (These trees are planted in locations that were specified in the Board of Officers 1912 memo on vegetation [see the vegetation section for more discussion]).
- By the end of World War I, buildings that were added to the open area between Ralston Avenue and the west side of Battery Howe-Wagner had created a separate cluster of buildings.<sup>1</sup> By World War II, Upton Avenue extended into this area, creating a second through-street on the east side of the Parade Ground. Today, some of these buildings are no longer standing, but due to the extent of the pavement (at the north end of Ralston and Upton avenues) there is a confusing circulation system and a lack of any spatial organization. Additionally, there is no cohesive architectural character for this group of buildings. In summary, this expansion of facilities along the east side of the Parade Ground has altered the original plan for the central core at Fort Scott.

- During World War II, war-related facilities were added to the area north of Storey Avenue. These included: a theater (No. 13870, a chapel (No. 1389), and a nursery (No. 1390). These buildings remain in place today and are examples of World War II temporary, wood-frame construction. The appearance of these buildings does not relate to the overall architectural character of the Parade Ground. Additionally, the arrangement of this group of buildings (and the related paved areas) does not relate to the original spatial organization of the Parade Ground. Due to their location on the north side of Storey Avenue and the sloping topography of this area, this group of World War II buildings is not visible from the Parade Ground; this limits the direct impact of this area on the Parade Ground.<sup>2</sup>

The Log Cabin (No. 1299) is located at the eastern edge of this area, north of Storey Avenue. However, its location does not impact the original spatial organization of the Parade Ground area.

- Fort Scott's original connection to the bluffs and its orientation toward the bay are no longer apparent and have all practice purposes been permanently altered. Doyle Drive separated the post from the bluffs to the north and ended the role of this geographical feature in delineating the north end of the post. The presence of Doyle Drive obscured the original views from the Parade Ground to the bay and severed the visual connection to it and the Golden Gate. The trees that were planted along the south side of this structure were planted to screen views of Doyle Drive but now frame the north end of this area (much as the Presidio forest does on the south end).

Even though most of these changes occurred during the Presidio NHLD's period of significance, they have resulted in alterations to the characteristics that defined the original spatial organization and intent of the 1910 plan.

## Circulation Features

Today, Ralston and Upton avenues remain in place. Upton Avenue now extends north to Storey Avenue, and all of the roads are wider than when they were originally laid out.

The Parade Ground sidewalk and the sidewalk across the Parade Ground remain in place. However, in some places the concrete is damaged due to settling or upheaval. Additionally, there is no longer an intact, continuous sidewalk connection to Ruckman Avenue east of Barracks 1216 due to the addition of paving in this area.

A new sidewalk was added across the Parade Ground at the south end of the baseball court (between 1942 and 1948) (today it is located between the south end of the baseball court and the north side of the basketball courts). Concrete steps provide a connection to the Parade Ground sidewalk on the west side. This sidewalk is compatible (in alignment, width, and materials) to the original east-west sidewalk.

An additional new segment of sidewalk was laid out at a 45-degree angle to provide a connection to the sidewalk on the south side of No. 1239 (north side of Ruckman Avenue). Since there is no longer a sidewalk in front of No. 1239 or along the north side of Ruckman Avenue (due to the spread of paving in this area), this angled connection no longer serves any purpose.

Pavement has been added to the sides of roads and around and between buildings to provide additional areas for parking. In general where asphalt has been added, vegetation has been removed. Examples of this include: the area between the barracks buildings, around all of the buildings along Upton Avenue, at west end of Storey Avenue where Ralston Avenue, Lincoln Boulevard, and Storey Avenue intersect. Additionally,

the original clarity of the circulation routes and the distinction between the pedestrian and vehicular environments are less evident. The increased dominance of pavement has altered the character of the Parade Ground area and has resulted in the loss of the landscape setting around the buildings on Upton Avenue. The formally planned design and interaction of the landscape, sidewalks, and roads now appears to be more of an ad-hoc landscape dominated by parking. The predominance of pavement undermines the clear structure and intent of the 1910 plan.

Large portions of the area immediately north of Storey Avenue have been paved. These additions, while unattractive, have limited impact on the Parade Ground plan. This area (originally the location of the Drill Field) has always functioned separately from the Parade Ground's roads/sidewalks (south of Storey). Additionally, due to the drop in elevation (north of Storey Avenue), this area is not directly visible from the Parade Ground.

The triangular-island located at the west end of Storey Avenue (created when a short segment of road was built in the 1930s to connect Storey with Ruckman) has been paved. This has resulted in a large paved area at this major entrance to Fort Scott.

## Vegetation Features

### Presidio Forest

Today, the trees of the Presidio forest are still a visible presence south of the Parade Ground.

### Lawns

Today, lawns are still a major vegetation feature, but some of the areas that were originally planted with grass are now paved over. This has occurred in the areas between the barracks

and around the buildings on Ralston and Upton avenues. The Drill Field no longer exists; this area is currently the location of World War II era buildings and a large paved area.

The Parade Ground was eventually seeded, and, today, the appearance of the ground plane around the barracks and Headquarters Building is similar to that of the Parade Ground. The condition (lack of maintenance) of the lawns has also contributed to this lack of distinction.

### Trees

Today, most of the cordylines around the edge of the Parade Ground are gone, and the ones that remain are in poor condition and near the end of their life span. Groups of pines remain in front of the spaces between the barracks. (It is not clear exactly when these pines were planted, but they are compatible with the original planting recommendations in the Board of Officers' 1912 memo.) While these pines screen views from the Parade Ground to the paving lots located between the barracks, they also block views out to the batteries.

Today, the grass Drill Field and open character of the area north of Storey Avenue no longer remain, and this area is heavily vegetated. The vegetation that was added around the buildings and along the north edge of Storey Avenue is overgrown and does not appear to have been maintained for a number of years.

The trees that were planted along the side of Doyle Drive were not a part of the original planting scheme for the post, but they are consistent with the characteristic of using vegetation to define the edges of spatial areas on the post. In effect, these trees provide a framing for the north end of the Parade Ground (much as the Presidio forest trees do on the south end).

### Foundation Plantings

Today, only remnants of the foundation plantings around the Parade Ground buildings remain in place, and the foundation treatment varies from building to building. The remaining plants do not have the appearance of a deliberate design and detract from the uniform appearance that was part of the Parade Ground's original image (and an expression of the Army value of order in the landscape).

### Small-Scale Features

Today, the flagpole and the various cannons and cannon ball features have all been removed from the Parade Ground.

The open concrete gutter around the Parade Ground remains in place although sections of it are covered with dirt (and may be missing).



**1.18** Building 1221 adjacent to Parade Ground Area. Haphazard paving, and the addition of incompatible elements such as guardrails and fencing obscure the original character of this service area east of the Parade Ground.



## AREA 2

### The Batteries (Saffold, Dynamite and Howe Wagner)

There are three batteries within the study area for the Fort Scott CLA: Battery Howe-Wagner, Battery Saffold, and Battery Dynamite.

Area 2 includes the land surrounding these batteries. Battery Howe-Wagner is located to the east of the north end of the Parade Ground, and the area around the battery is defined by the roads that surround the battery (Battery Wagner Road, Ruckman Avenue, and Upton Avenue). For Batteries Dynamite and Saffold (both located on the west side of the Parade Ground), this area is defined by the Ralston Avenue, Greenough Avenue, Kobbe Avenue, and Lincoln Boulevard.

### Common Character-Defining Features for Endicott Batteries

Endicott batteries generally shared the following design and materials characteristics:

- Concrete (rather than brick or stone) was used for construction. For the later batteries, reinforced concrete was used.
- The batteries were partially buried behind wide mounds of earth that were designed to resist penetration by a projectile and to provide camouflage.
- There was no overhead protection since military aircraft did not exist (until World War I).
- Paved roads with gutters provided access into the battery.
- The plans of Endicott batteries evolved as engineers began to see more efficient ways to meet the needs of the artillery service. In the early batteries, small structures for additional facilities (i.e. storerooms, latrines, magazine, and power plants) were added to the exterior of battery. Later designs incorporated these features into the floor plan.

- Similarly, the use of vegetation during this period evolved. The vegetation features at and around the battery were controlled and maintained to support the function of the battery.

During the 1890s, vegetation was used solely to try to stabilize slopes (both to maintain their gradient and to prevent sand from blowing into the pits of the batteries):

1. Oats and barley seed was sown or sod was added to the slopes of the batteries.

In the early 20th century, the use of plant materials became more complex at the San Francisco batteries due to planting experiments at Battery Livingston at Fort Miley. Plants were chosen that were drought resistant and that looked similar to the native vegetation in an effort to better maintain the slopes of the earthen batteries and to provide camouflage:

1. Oats – which from a distance blended into the surrounding landscape S were planted on the outer slope of the battery.
2. Cuttings of ice plant were planted on the inner slopes of the battery. Ice plant was drought resistant (i.e. it did not require irrigation) and fast-growing. It formed a dense mat and was able to hold the steeper inner slopes better the oats. (The inner slopes were not visible and so camouflage was not an issue.)
3. The Army planted bunch grasses on the sand dunes around the battery. The perennial bunch grasses were adapted to the extensive dry-season and had long roots that aided in stabilizing the dunes and in preventing sand from blowing into the mortar pits. This type of vegetation also had the appearance of being “natural” and provided some level of camouflage to the battery.
4. Trees and shrubs (eucalyptus and lupine were two typical choices) were planted on the outer slopes to soften the distinction between the batteries and the surrounding forested area.

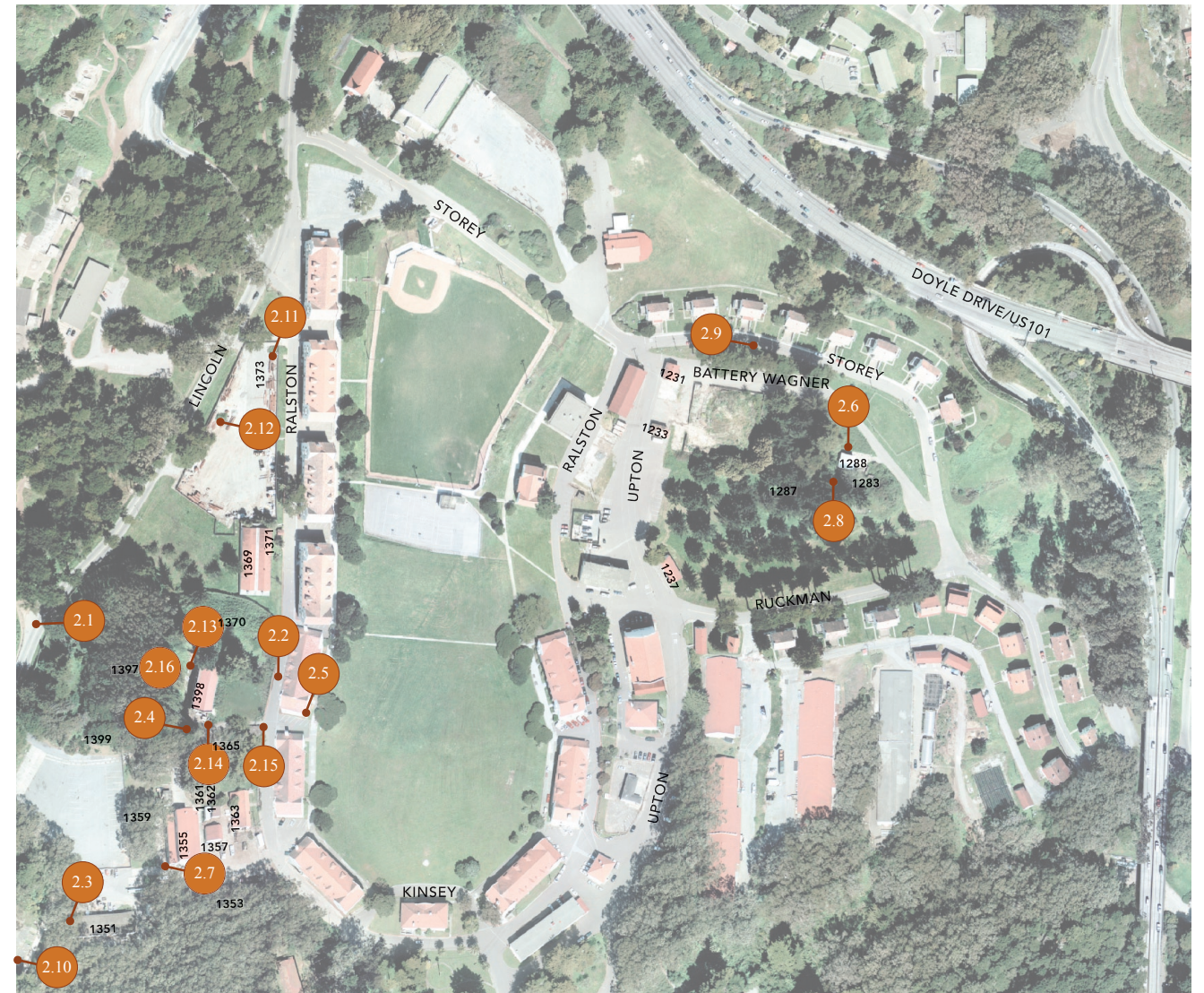
<sup>3</sup> Red painted fences were originally used by the army to identify the earthwork atop the batteries.





2.1 West side of Battery Dynamite, showing overgrown condition.

2.2 East side of Battery Dynamite.



Area 2 Photographic Key: photographs illustrate the character defining features and the condition of those features. (images included in this section are not meant to be an exhaustive list of all the character-defining features in this area)



These practices were standardized in a 1910 memo from the Office of Chief of Coast Artillery in Washington, D.C. which specified that:

1. The exterior slopes at all batteries be made to conform to the appearance of the “surrounding ground” by avoiding “geometrical contours” and by planting “such trees and shrubs, as can be obtained in the neighborhood of the defenses, on the slopes of the defenses and around them.”
2. Trees were planted in the rear and between batteries.
3. Low trees were planted at the foot of the batteries.
4. Bushes and shrubs were planted on the “superior [outside] slopes of batteries and low shrubs in irregular splotches between guns.”

### Battery Howe-Wagner

Battery Howe-Wagner (No. 1287), located between Storey and Ruckman avenues, was completed in 1895 and was an active part of the San Francisco seacoast defense system from 1895 to 1920. The battery’s mortars were removed in 1920. After that date, the battery was used as a storage area or left vacant. During at least a portion of the Cold War, Battery Howe-Wagner was designated as an air raid shelter for civilians.

#### Character-Defining Features for Battery Howe-Wagner

During its active years (1895-1920), Battery Howe-Wagner had the following character-defining characteristics:

#### Location

Its location was determined by its function within the seacoast fortification system.

The battery’s mortars could be rotated 360 degrees and from this location were within range of both the ocean and bay. The mortars had a minimum range that required the battery to be placed at this distance back from the shoreline; otherwise the mortars would overshoot the area they were intended to defend. (The maximum range of the mortars was approximately eight miles.) This location, away from the shoreline, also obscured the battery from the view of enemy ships and provided protection from possible naval bombardment.

#### Spatial Organization and Structure

Concrete passages and rooms were buried under wide mounds or berms of earth that formed the shape of a cross. A berm also enclosed the outer sides of the pits.

There were four pits (each with four, 12-inch mortars) S one each located in the interior angles formed by the cross-shaped berm. (This is the only example of a cruciform mortar battery in the San Francisco defenses.)

Four, breech-loading, 12-inch mortars in each of the four pits (non-extant).

Stabilization features for the berms included:

1. Concrete retaining walls constructed at the base of the berm.
2. A series of drains, gutters, and pumps to promote drainage (a constant maintenance and functional issue at the Endicott batteries).
3. Groundcover planted on the berm (see vegetation features below).



2.3 Battery Saffold. The integrity of the built structures is good, but overgrown vegetation has obscured the historic character of the spatial structure of this area.



### Topographic Modifications

Excavation for the construction of the battery structure and pits.

Addition of fill to create the berms that covered the battery’s structure and that surrounded the pits. The berms were constructed of clay that was covered by a layer of loam that provided a viable medium for growing some type of groundcover.

The purpose of the berm was to resist penetration by a projectile and to provide camouflage. While from a distance the berms may have blended into the landscape, when viewed from the immediately surrounding area, the engineered grade of the Battery Howe-Wagner berm (with a 3:4 ratio on the slope) would have been an obvious man-made topographic feature.

### Circulation

Connections to the battery were provided by two external roads.

1. A paved road along the north side of the battery (in the same general alignment as Storey Avenue) provided connections at its east and west ends to Lincoln Boulevard.
2. A second external road (unpaved) located south of the battery provided a connection between Storey Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard (along the same general alignment as Ruckman Avenue).

Two internal roads were part of the design and construction of the battery.

1. A road extended across the north side of the battery, connecting at both ends to Storey Avenue. This road was located just inside (south) of the row of Monterey cypress trees. Gutters were located on the side of road.
2. There was a similar road on the south side of the battery, again

located inside (north) of the row of Monterey cypress trees and inside the battery’s berm. This road provided access to the two south side pits and originally only extended approximately half way across the south side of the battery.

### Vegetation Features

The vegetation at and around the battery was controlled and maintained to support the function of the battery.

1. The berm was planted to help stabilize the slope, to cover the slope’s sand and dirt so that it did not blow into the battery’s pit. When the battery was completed, in 1895, oats were planted on the berm. After 1901, the vegetation at the San Francisco batteries were modified to provide camouflage as well as stability, and plants were chosen that blended in with the native vegetation. It is not known the extent to which this new planting scheme was undertaken at Battery Howe-Wagner. However, in aerial photographs taken during the period of significance, the top of the berms are free of trees or other large plants.
2. After 1901, vegetation was also used as a means to provide camouflage at the batteries. By 1905, a single row of Monterey cypress trees were planted around (encircling) the battery. From a distance, this row of trees would have looked similar to (and would have blended with) the tree-cover of the Presidio forest that extended up to the south side of the battery. (The addition of this row of trees would not have conflicted with the operation of the battery. The mortars fired their shells from a near vertical elevation. So it seems likely that the trees would not have reached a height to interfere with this trajectory before the mortars were removed in 1920.)

### Integrity of the Character-Defining Features at Battery Howe-Wagner

A number of buildings or structures were added to the battery or along its edges (particularly after it was decommissioned in 1920). These features were not related to the operations of the battery and did not alter the battery’s character-defining features. Some of these buildings and structures are no longer extant (i.e. a children’s playground built at the battery by the WPA during the 1930s) but the remaining buildings include the following:

1. A small Blacksmith Shop (No. 1231) was built at the intersection of Upper Storey and Upton avenues in 1913, but this structure related to the function of the post and not to that of the battery. However, this marked the start of the development of a cluster of features (between Ralston and Upton avenues) just west of the battery.
2. A small garage (No. 1285) was built in Pit A at Battery Howe-Wagner in 1933.
3. A storehouse (No. 1233) was added to the east side of Upton Avenue on the western edge of the battery in 1933.
4. During World War II, a post office (No. 1237) was added to the east side of Upton Avenue on the western edge of the battery.

On the other hand, the following changes that have occurred at the battery since the end of the Presidio NHLD’s period of significance (1945) have resulted in changes to the battery’s character-defining features:

- Three of Battery Howe-Wagner’s four pits (Battery Howe’s pit B and Battery Wagner’s pits C and D) were covered with dirt to create a hill over the battery. Only pit A, at Battery Howe, remains uncovered and visible. (Presumably the remaining portions of the battery’s concrete structure remains buried under this fill.) After the fill dirt was added, a stand of trees (primarily

pinces) was either planted or allowed to grow and now covers most of this hill. There were no trees on top of the battery's berm during the period of significance.

The battery's four pits and protective earthen berm were a visible structure and topographic feature within Fort Scott's cultural landscape. Today, the battery's original berm and its function (to protect the open pits) are no longer distinguishable characteristics. The stand of trees growing on top of the hill (that covers the battery) has also contributed to lack of visibility of the topography of the battery. The addition of the dirt to infill the pits and the growth of the vegetation on top of this new hill has compromised the integrity of Battery Howe-Wagner and is a hindrance to understanding of the battery's function within the seacoast fortification system. Today, the battery more closely resembles a natural feature rather than a man-made one.

- The function of the row of Monterey cypress trees around the perimeter of the battery has changed over time. When the Monterey cypress were planted (in early 1900s), there were trees (part of the Presidio forest) to the east, south, and west of the battery, and when viewed from the Bay, the cypress would have blended into this group of trees. Also, the canopies of the cypress would have been much lower to the ground and would have blocked the view of the berm. After 1920 (when the battery's mortars were removed), the Monterey cypress functioned as an ornamental feature that marked the edges of the battery, rather than as part of a system for camouflage.

Today, the remaining Monterey cypress trees, located around the perimeter of the battery, are a distinctive vegetation feature at Fort Scott and continue to define the edge of the battery. Additionally, because this row of trees contrasts with the irregular, natural-looking grove of pine trees that now covers the battery, they are a visual clue to the presence of the battery. However, the effectiveness of the Monterey cypress to provide

this distinction is threatened by any future loss of individual trees and by the fact that the remaining Monterey cypress trees are nearing the end of their lifespan. There are gaps in the row of Monterey cypress trees and it no longer completely encircles the battery: all of the trees along the west side of the battery are gone; the eastern half of the row of trees on the north side is gone; and the row of trees along the south side consists of two groups of trees with noticeable gaps at both ends and in the middle. The loss of these trees has occurred since the end of the Presidio NHL's period of significance (1945).

## Battery Saffold

Battery Saffold (No. 1354), located between Lincoln Boulevard and Greenough Avenue, was completed 1898 and shares some of the same characteristics as Battery Wagner-Howe: the importance of its location in relation to its function, a concrete structure, protective earthen berms, a paved road into the battery, and use of vegetation to maintain the slope of the berm and later to provide camouflage. Battery Saffold's guns were declared obsolete and removed in 1943, and the battery was then used for storage or left vacant.

### Character-Defining Features for Battery Saffold

During its active years (1898-1943), the character-defining features at Battery Saffold include the following:

#### Location

- Its location was determined by its function within the seacoast fortifications system.

Battery Saffold was designed to accommodate guns (rather than the mortars at Battery Wagner-Howe) that were capable of being rotated 360 degrees and from this location were within range of both the ocean and Bay.<sup>1</sup>

## Spatial Organization

- The entryway into the battery is a paved road that originally connected on both its north and south ends to the external road system. The roadway bisects the battery, and the gun pits are on the west side of the road. Earthen berms protect the battery structure and are located on the east and west sides of the road; these appear from a distance to be small hills or mounds.

## Structure

- Use of reinforced concrete as the primary structural material for the battery.

The Seacoast Fortifications Preservation Manual noted that although Battery Saffold was an early Endicott battery (it was designed in 1896), its floor plan illustrates the continuing change or evolution of design that was characteristic of the Endicott fortifications. The magazine spaces, each with their own entry, open directly onto this road. There are additional rooms in the interior of the concrete structure (a bomb-proof shelter, powder room, shell room, engine room, radiator room, oil room, two store rooms, two hoist rooms) that indicate the evolving design of more specialized spaces with the Endicott battery interiors (Wofford 2007 and NPS 1997 Chapter 3: 5).

- Two, 12-inch caliber guns mounted on barbette (disappearing) carriages (non-extant).

## Topographic Modifications

- Excavation to construct the battery's concrete structure and fill to create the earthen berms located on the 'east side of the battery road and the west side of the guns.

## Circulation

- Connections to the Presidio's external road system:

Lincoln Boulevard is located west of the battery, and the internal battery road originally connected to this road.

- An internal road that provides access to the battery and that is an integral part of the battery's function.

Battery Saffold Road provided access into the battery. Originally, it was connected on both its north and south ends to Lincoln Boulevard. When Battery Dynamite was constructed a few years later, a connection was made with Battery Dynamite Road creating a "Y" on the north end of Battery Saffold Road. When Kobbé Avenue was laid out, it connected to the south end of the Battery Saffold Road. The road has a concrete gutter located along its east side and was graded so that the water drained to the north.

## Vegetation Features

- Vegetation planted on the slopes of the earthworks to control erosion.

Although, there is little information specific information about vegetation planted around the battery, it is reasonable to assume the planting plan followed the Army's general standards: 1) oaks planted on the battery's earthworks prior to 1901 and 2) after the turn-of-the-century, iceplant was added.

- Vegetation used to provide some level of camouflage.

Again, there is little specific information on how this practice, that began around 1901, was carried out at Battery Saffold. However, as discussed below, the area immediately surrounding the battery remained free of trees and other large vegetation through the end of the period of significance.

- The battery's earthworks, the area immediately surrounding the battery, and the area to the east and west were originally free of trees.

In a survey plan from 1907, there is a clear distinction between the open area to the east and west of the battery and the surrounding forest.

Aerial photographs (1936, 1938, and 1948) showed that the battery's berm as well as the area in front (west) of the battery and the area immediately east of battery remained free of trees. (There were two small clumps of trees located at the north and south corners of the west side of the battery.)

## Integrity of the Character-Defining Features at Battery Saffold

Today, although key character-defining features remain in place (concrete structure, earth berm, and road), there have been critical changes to these features.

The battery's guns were removed in 1943 (near the end of the Presidio NHL's period of significance).

The unaltered concrete structure remains in place. However, weathering has caused some damage to the structure and if unabated has the potential to impact the integrity of the battery.

The northern half of Battery Saffold Road has been absorbed into the non-historic paved service yard that is located between Battery Saffold and Battery Dynamite. (Concrete ramps and tracks can still be found embedded in the paved service yard.) The portion of the road through the battery is still intact; the gutter remains although portions of it are now covered with dirt and plant debris or may be missing.

The characteristic use of vegetation (planting of low groundcover on the berm, open area with groundcover [and possibly low shrubs] around the battery, stands of trees located to the rear [east] of the battery) is no longer intact. During the years following the end of the Presidio NHL's period of significance (1945), trees (predominantly eucalyptus trees) were allowed to spread into the areas that had been maintained as open. Iceplant and other plants (i.e. cape ivy, mattress wire, etc.) that were originally planted to provide erosion control or to form a groundcover under the surrounding trees have also spread. The characteristics that were once considered desirable by the Army are problematic today because the plants are aggressive competitors and easily spread into natural areas where they are difficult to eradicate (and thereby at odds with Presidio Trust natural resources goals). Additionally, this type of vegetation has the potential to adversely affect the condition of the battery's earthworks.

During the period of significance, Battery Saffold was a visible structure and topographic feature within Fort Scott's cultural landscape. Today, the eucalyptus and Monterey cypress trees and other vegetation obscure the battery (both the concrete structure and its protective earthen berm). The growth of the vegetation to the west of the battery (including in areas to the west that are outside of the study area for this CLA) and on the west-side berm blocks the sightlines between the battery and ocean and limits the understanding of the battery's function within the seacoast fortification system.





2.4

2.4 Electrical Power Plant Building at Battery Dynamite. Built structures define a clear space.



2.5

2.5 Battery Saffold



2.6

2.6 Battery Howe Wagner, showing how vegetation has obscured the historic character.



## Battery Dynamite

Battery Dynamite was completed in 1895 and was built to test an experimental gun that used compressed air to fire charges of dynamite. The battery's guns and their related machinery were removed in 1904 after the battery had been declared obsolete in 1901.

The battery shares certain character-defining features with the Fort Scott Endicott batteries: need to be located within proximity of the coastline, use of reinforced concrete as the primary structural material, a protective earthen berm, and a roadway designed to provide access into the battery.

### Character-Defining Features for Battery Dynamite

Character-defining features for Battery Dynamite include the following:

#### Location

- Its proximity to the coast is dictated by the function of the battery's original guns.

#### Spatial Organization

- An earthen berm formed a rectangular pit around each of the three guns that were located in a row on the west side of the battery. The berm continued around the north and east side of the battery enclosing the space around the power house. There was an opening at the southeast corner of the battery, on Ralston Avenue, that provided access to the interior space and powerhouse.

#### Structure

- Use of reinforced concrete as the primary structural material for the battery.



2.7 Battery Dynamite.

2.8 Gun turrets at Battery Saffold

2.9 Battery Howe Wagner hidden by vegetation.





2.10 Battery Saffold small scale features remain.

2.11 Low walls and stairs.

2.12 View towards ocean across Battery Saffold. Trees obscure the original design intent of the coastal batteries strategic location and visibility to the ocean.

- The use of compressed air required specialized structures: underground vaults for disposing each gun's air reservoirs and a power plant building (85 feet by 35 feet), located east of the guns, which provided electricity to power the air compressors that propelled the projectiles.
- Concrete retaining walls along the edges of the open area surrounding the powerhouse.

The battery was originally constructed without a protective earthen berm, but during the Spanish American War, due to concern that the battery's guns were exposed and plainly visible from the ocean, high earthen traverses were built around the guns (transforming each into a pit). Concrete retaining walls were built around the powerhouse so that earth could be placed as near and as high as possible around this structure. Bombproof magazines and covered passageways were also added at this time.

- Reinforced concrete power plant as a free standing structure.
- In 1910, a new power plant structure was built to replace the original structure that was destroyed during the 1906 earthquake.<sup>2</sup> Design elements of this structure include: a gable roof that forms a classical pediment at either end; pilaster-like elements articulate the bays of the wall and are surmounted by an abbreviated and simplified entablature.
- Three experimental dynamite guns (non-extant) were originally spaced 85 feet apart in a row (oriented north-south) on the west side of the battery.

### Topographic Modifications

- Fill was added to the site to create the protective earthworks covering the concrete structure of the battery to create high earthen berms around the guns (transforming each into a rectangular-shaped pit) and the powerhouse.



## Circulation

- Connections to the existing road system.

Lincoln Boulevard was located west of the battery, and the battery's road originally connected to this road.

- A road that provided access to the battery.

Originally Battery Dynamite Road looped around the battery and defined its outer edges. The two ends of this road intersected with Lincoln Boulevard, located on the west side of the battery. The portion of the Battery Dynamite Road on the east side of the battery was absorbed into the alignment for Ralston Avenue during the construction of Fort Scott, and the road was then divided into two distinct segments (north and south of the battery).

## Vegetation Features

- Low vegetation was planted on the earthworks to stabilize the slopes of the earthworks per Army standard procedures. There were no trees on the battery's earthworks.

## Integrity of the Character-Defining Features at Battery Dynamite

Battery Dynamite was originally a distinct feature within Fort Scott's cultural landscape. Today, the battery is no longer easily identifiable from the west and only some of its character-defining features remain in place. The powerplant building and eastern wall of the battery do still form a dramatic space.

The battery's location has not changed but its relationship to the coast is less clear today due to vegetation that currently blocks the view between the battery and the coastline.

The concrete structure of the battery remains in place (most of the structure is located underground). Concrete is visible in

the retaining walls (added in 1989-1900) and the power plant building (built in 1910 to replace the original building). The guns were removed during the period of significance, and this feature is non-extant. A reinforced concrete machine shop (No. 1365) was constructed sometime around 1906-1910 on Ralston Avenue at the south side to the entrance into the battery.

Today, the earthworks remain but are covered by trees and other vegetation. The distinct topography of the berms around each gun emplacement and around the battery was still visible in an aerial photograph taken in 1936. In a 1948 aerial photograph, it appears that the pits around each gun had been infilled. The precise, engineered grade that characterized the earthworks may have been damaged by the encroachment of the trees and other vegetation, and no maintenance has been undertaken to maintain this grade for many years.

After Battery Dynamite Road was divided into two segments (in 1909), the portion of Battery Dynamite road along the north side of battery eventually was abandoned and its alignment not maintained; this occurred prior to World War II. Today, there is no visible road alignment around the north side of the battery. The portion of Battery Dynamite Road along the south side of the battery remained an active circulation feature: a number of small storerooms were built along the south side of this road during World War I and Battery Saffold Road intersected with it. Today, the roadway no longer exists as a distinct circulation feature. It has been absorbed into the large paved area located south of the battery.

In a survey from 1907, although the surrounding area (to the north, east, and south) was forested, there were no trees on the battery's earthworks; the trees stopped at Battery Dynamite Road. At some point, a row of trees was planted along the

east side of the gun emplacements. This row of trees is visible in aerial photographs from 1936, 1938, and 1948; however, there were no other trees on the battery's earthworks. As was the case with Battery Saffold, vegetation (i.e. eucalyptus trees, Monterey cypress, blackberry, ivy, and mattress wire vine) has spread over the earthworks. Today this vegetation covers the battery's earthworks, and as a result, the sight lines between the battery and the ocean are now blocked. The engineered earthworks are less visible because of this vegetation; only the berm along the east side of the battery is free of trees.

## Other Features Within Area 2

The industrial cluster located between Batteries Saffold and Dynamite, the indoor shooting range (No. 1369) located just north of Battery Dynamite, and the Bachelor Officer Quarters (BEQ) (No. 1347) located at the corner of Greenough Avenue and Kobbe Avenue were all added to the Battery Area (on the west side of the Parade Ground) during the Presidio NHD's period of significance.

The nucleus of the industrial area was the ordnance shop that was built as part of the initial Fort Scott construction. The buildings and structures in this complex are utilitarian in character and were added to meet various needs related to aspects of the Coast Artillery's operations (i.e. ordnance repair shop and searchlight repair shop). Generally, the post's standard building color scheme (off white paint and red-colored roofs) was used on the various structures in this area. Their location to the rear of the Parade Ground is characteristic of the spatial organization of the post (where support facilities were located in less visible areas behind the Parade Ground). Facilities continued to be added this area through World War II. However,

the features were confined to the east side of Battery Saffold Road through the end of the period of significance, and the expansion of the large paved area to the west happened after 1948. Trees, located in this area between Batteries Saffold and Dynamite, were removed to accommodate this expansion. This pavement also absorbed the north end of Battery Saffold Road and Battery Dynamite Road. Today, this area is used for by the Presidio Trust for various service related functions.

The BEQ (No. 1347) and indoor shooting range (No. 1369) are both examples of single structures added to an open area during the intensive construction period during World War II, and neither relates to the original plan or architectural character of the post.

Instead, they are examples of the temporary structures the Army constructed during World War II. These buildings utilized wood-frame construction systems and were based on standard plans with minimal detailing; these characteristics remain in place. The post’s standard building color scheme (off white paint and red-colored roofs) is used on these two World War II era buildings.

(Footnotes)

- 1 Battery Saffold’s guns fired in a relatively flat trajectory (they could not be elevated more than 15 degrees). For this reason, at some point the height of the trees in the portion of the Presidio forest northeast of the battery may have become a limiting factor in firing the guns toward the Bay. After the construction of the Fort Scott Parade Ground in 1909-12 (located between the battery and the bay), the guns could no longer be fired toward the bay.
- 2 Other alterations made to accommodate the various uses of the battery over the years (i.e. storage, artillery fire control switchboard and a post telephone switchboard, and Harbor Defense Command Post/Harbor Entrance Command Post) occurred within the interior of the battery’s structures.



2.13 Battery Dynamite’s impressively scaled concrete walls and strong sense of space are unusual features in comparison to other coastal batteries.





2.14



2.15

2.14 The entrance to the Battery Dynamite has a strong visual connection to the Parade Ground.

2.15 Battery Dynamite's Power Station and concrete walls define an unusually tall space.



2.16

2.16 The main entrance to Battery Dynamite's deep tunnel system, with original doors remaining.



# AREA 3

## The Residential Neighborhoods

Area 3 includes three separate groups of features:

- The first is the Kobbe Avenue neighborhood that includes: Kobbe Avenue and the associated quarters; Hitchcock Street and the garages for the officer quarters, Wright Loop and a general officer family quarters; and Wisser Court and the Community Garden area.
- The second residential neighborhood is located along Ruckman and Storey avenues and includes: Storey Avenue and Ruckman Avenue, their associated quarters and garages, and two service roads S Appleton Street and Rod Road.
- The third group is the World War II-era warehouse area where the Recycling and Salvage Center and the Native Plant Nursery are located.

### Kobbe Avenue Officer Quarters

The Kobbe Officer Quarters area provided housing for officers and their families and was one of the original clusters of features developed as part of the 1910 Fort Scott plan. Before Kobbe Avenue was laid out in 1902, this area was covered with trees that were part of the Presidio forest. A curving swath of trees was removed along the sloping hillside to create enough open area to construct Kobbe Avenue, the row of quarters, and Hitchcock Street. The trees that remained defined the edges of this area and created a sense of separation from the Parade Ground located a short distance to the north. Additionally, the trees provided a picturesque setting and sheltered the quarters from the wind.

After the first two quarters (Nos. 1302 and 1304) were built at the east end of the newly constructed Kobbe Avenue in 1902, the remaining residences were added during and immediately after the construction of the post:

- Ten buildings were added to Kobbe Avenue (Nos. 1300, 1308, 1310, 1314, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, 1328, and 1334) between 1909 and 1912.
- Then in 1915, a bachelor officer quarters (No. 1330) was built at the corner of Kobbe and Upton avenues.

The provision for garages became a part of the Army's planning process in the early 20th century and standardized plans were developed for two-car garages in 1913 and for multiple-car garages in 1915. These garages were typically one-story with minimal architectural character or ornament and were built behind family housing quarters (Goodwin et al. 1995 Vol. 2: 101). The garages for the officer quarters at Fort Scott followed this standard pattern. Multiple-car garages were placed along a service road (Hitchcock Street) to the rear of the quarters:

- The first six garages (Nos. 1305, 1307, 1313, 1315, 1317, and 1319) were built between 1915 and 1917.
- Three more (Nos. 1311, 1323, and 1335) were added between 1919 and 1921.
- In 1940, two more garages were added (Nos. 1301 and 1303).
- Additionally, two multi-car garages (Nos. 1325 and 1327), built in 1940 and 1941, were located the end of Wisser Court (a short cul-de-sac) south of Hitchcock Street.

### Character-Defining Features for the Kobbe Avenue Officer Quarters

The officer quarters area along Kobbe Avenue has a cohesive character due to a number of shared characteristics and to the repetition of features along the streetscape (both of which are

6 The Presidio Trust has well documented the Fort Scott residential zones and has proceeded to rehabilitate and restore the majority of the units and associated landscape.

7 The current stability and conditions of the WWII buildings is unclear.





3.1 Front Lawns at Storey Avenue houses.

3.2 Native Plant Nursery.



Area 3 Photographic Key: photographs illustrate the character defining features and the condition of those features. (images included in this section are not meant to be an exhaustive list of all the character-defining features in this area)



typical characteristics of the residential areas designed by the Army's Quartermaster Corps).

**Character-defining features for the Kobbe Avenue Quarters**

**Spatial Organization**

- The quarters are located between Kobbe Avenue and Hitchcock Street and are laid out in a curved alignment in response to the topography of the area. Kobbe Avenue (constructed in 1902) is the primary road, and the quarters are located in row on the south side of the street facing a stand of trees (part of the Presidio forest). Hitchcock Street (constructed in 1910) functions as a service road and is located to the rear (south) of the quarters. Its alignment is roughly parallel to that of Kobbe Avenue.
- The entrance to the quarters at Kobbe Avenue and Park Boulevard is marked with a concrete pillar on each side of the road. These pillars also mark an entrance into Fort Scott (and distinguished this area from the Presidio). The entrance to the post is also marked by "Fort Winfield Scott" (in raised letters) on the side of the concrete parapet of the Park Presidio viaduct.
- The quarters are located a uniform distance from the street and form a row of buildings along the south side of Kobbe Avenue. This arrangement also results in the rear facades forming a uniform row along Hitchcock Street. The amount of space between each building is similar.
- The repetition of features (stone retaining wall, concrete sidewalk along south side of Kobbe Avenue, concrete steps providing connection to quarters, uniform planting scheme) creates visual continuity and defines the streetscape character.
- There is a similar continuity and repetition of features along the service road (Hitchcock Street) streetscape that includes: the detached garages located on the south side of the street; a narrow viewshed between the garages and rear facades of

the quarters, curbs along the side of the street, and sidewalk connections from Hitchcock to the rear entrance of the residences.

- Each building's identity is as part of the group rather than as an individual feature.

**Topographic Modifications**

- The quarters and their yards are located at a higher elevation than Kobbe Avenue. A stone retaining wall reinforces the change in elevation at the edge of the front yard. Steps, located in front of each quarters, provide the connection from the street up to the quarters.
- The sloping topography of the site (sloping down from west to east) has been graded into a continuous slope between the residences. At the east end of the quarters, the slope becomes more pronounced, and the site has been graded to create a level terrace for the last two buildings; these terraces are separated by a bank.
- The north side of the front yard area has been graded to create a uniformly sloped bank.
- Hitchcock Street is at a lower elevation than the Community Garden area to the south so that the area along the south side of Hitchcock Street is graded to create a uniformly-sloped bank. The garages are set into this bank or slope.

**Buildings and Structures**

- Repetition or similarity of design elements, massing, and scale for the quarters. The first two buildings (Nos. 1302 and 1304), built in 1902, have elements associated with the Colonial Revival style which was the predominant style for officer quarters in this era. The remaining quarters, built during the initial phase of construction for the post, have details or elements of the Spanish Colonial Revival style.
- Uniform design for the garages that is based on a standard Army plan: one-story with hip roof, construction materials matching

those of the quarters, and minimal architectural character or ornament.

- Repetition of building materials: red brick or off-white colored (stucco) walls and red-tile or red-colored roofs.

**Vehicular Circulation**

- Kobbe Avenue is the main road and provides public access to the quarters. The north side of Kobbe Avenue is delineated with a stone curb.
- There are three small group parking lots located on the north side of Kobbe Avenue. (These areas are within Planning Area 4: The Community Center and Dragonfly Creek but visually relate to the Kobbe Avenue streetscape.) The edges of these parking areas are delineated with a stone curb or low stone retaining wall (similar in appearance to the retaining wall along the north side of the Kobbe Avenue).
- Hitchcock Street provides access to the rear of the quarters and to the garages. Its alignment is roughly parallel to that of Kobbe Avenue. The edges of the street are delineated with concrete curbs.
- The curving alignment of the two roads is a response to the site's topography.

**Pedestrian Circulation**

- A sidewalk is located along the south side of Kobbe Avenue.
- Pedestrian circulation paths within the quarters yard area are clearly delineated by the sidewalks that connect the streets to the entrances to the buildings (both front and rear) and continue around the sides of the buildings. Steps are used to connect changes in elevation between the street and yards (both in front and to the rear). The arrangement of all sidewalks is linear.
- Concrete is the primary material for the pedestrian circulation features.



## Vegetation Features

- Originally, stands of trees (part of the Presidio forest) surrounded this quarters area. The trees define the edges of the officer housing area and provide a buffer between it and the Parade Ground located a short distance to the north.

In the area north of the quarters (located within Area 4: The Community Center and Dragonfly Creek) was originally cleared of undergrowth and trees were pruned to create a “park-like” setting and to provide views of the Bay.

- The front, side, and back yards for each residence are connected and form a common green space around the buildings.

The exceptions to this pattern are planting beds located between quarters at the east end of the row (Nos. 1300 and 1302); due to the steepness of the slope, the area between the residences is terraced, and planting beds have been established on sides (slopes) of the terraces.

- Narrow planting beds are located between the sidewalks and the buildings’ foundations. Ornamental plantings are generally limited to these foundation beds.
- Trees are not a prominent feature within the yards and are limited to single specimens of palm trees (or cordylines) in some of the front yards.

### Integrity of the Character-Defining Features in the Kobbe Avenue Officer Quarters

Today, Kobbe Avenue remains a distinct district or neighborhood with a cohesive character. The character-defining features, listed above, remain in place, and the changes that have occurred have been limited. Other than the addition of the Park Presidio viaduct at the edge of the neighborhood, the changes that have occurred within this area have been limited:

- Stands of trees (identified in the VMP as part of the historic forest) still help to define the north and south edges of this district. The area along the east edge of the district is now defined by the Park Presidio viaduct (constructed in 1939); the construction of this roadway required the removal of the portion of the forest in this location. Trees were also removed south of Hitchcock Street to accommodate the expansion of the community garden (Fort Scott nursery) area and the construction of Wright Loop and the general officer family quarters (No. 1332). The stand of trees south of the gardens and Wrights Loop, the trees continue to define the south edge of this area. All of these actions were undertaken during the Presidio NHL’s period of significance.
- The ornaments and signage have been removed from the two concrete pillars that flank Kobbe Avenue at its intersection with Park Boulevard. Today, only the concrete bases remain in place.
- Along Hitchcock Street, there have been alterations to smaller scale features that have the potential to cumulatively alter the uniform character of this streetscape.

Accommodations have been made to provide additional parking spaces (i.e. portions of Hitchcock Street have been widened on the north side to make room for parallel parking and the area between the two units in No. 1304 has been paved). Historically, the location of the row of quarters (on the north side) and the row of garages and topography (on the south side) created a narrow viewshed along Hitchcock Street; this is one of the character-defining characteristics this service road. The additions of new parking spaces along Hitchcock Street has the potential to alter these characteristics.

There have been additions to the pedestrian circulation system (generally at the rear of the quarters to accommodate new circulation patterns created by new parking spaces); examples of these additions include a gravel pathway located parallel to

a parking space or concrete pavers (set in dirt) to create a new path. The choice of these materials (gravel and pavers) distinguishes the new paths from the historic ones and is reversible; however, these new paths (and the materials) often appear to be ad hoc and detract from the sense of a designed pedestrian circulation system. Also, in some places new vegetation features (i.e. rows of shrubs) have been added along these paths; these plantings, although located along the edge of the lawns, have the tendency to alter the characteristic treatment of the ground plane between the buildings that of a uniform green space (lawn).

Basalt block curbing has been used in some areas where the circulation system has been altered and new curbing has been added. The use of the basalt blocks, in limited areas, is a compatible material that distinguishes new curbing from the historic curbs.

- The Presidio Trust has already undertaken the rehabilitation of the ornamental vegetation features around the quarters. The design of the new or replacement plantings and choice of plant materials were undertaken in a way that is compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics of this area.



3.3

3.3 WPA era walls and entrance stairs along Kobbe.



3.4

3.4 View of Landscape along Upton Street, showing formal landscape of palms, ground cover and symmetrical sidewalk approach to Building 1337



## Kobbe Community Garden Area

This area may have been the location for the plant nursery that was established after the construction of Fort Scott (although it is not labeled as such on any source reviewed for this report). It is clear from reviewing plans and aerial photographs that some sort of development occurred in this area prior to the 1938-39 WPA project (that resulted in formal garden, described below). A short cul-de-sac was shown leading to this area on a 1917 Lighting System plan (and corresponds to the general alignment of Wisser Court), and a small rectangular area had been cleared of trees and fenced on a 1922 map. By 1927 (visible in the 1927 aerial photograph), a larger area of trees have been cleared south of Hitchcock Street (possibly indicating that the nursery area had expanded). By 1935, the cleared area had expanded even further, and there was a greenhouse located on the western side (originally No. 214 in older numbering system; No. 1329 in current system); this greenhouse is no longer extant.

A WPA project during 1938 and 1939 either added new features the ornamental paths and parterre beds and fountain [pool] or formalized these features. This site slopes down from west-to-east and from north-to-south, and the slope has been graded to create a parking area at the end of Wisser Court and two terraces. The area along the south side of each terrace has been graded to create a gently sloping bank.

The upper terrace is located along the north side of this site. A system of stone walls, steps, and ramps were constructed that created a formal garden with parterre planting beds laid out around an octagonal-shaped water feature (a pool or fountain). A stone wall ran the length of its north side, and a path was located along the upper side of this wall. The parking lot oc-

cupied the western quarter of this terrace, and the parterre garden feature was located on the eastern half. The greenhouse was located in the area between the parking lot and parterre garden feature. This upper terrace was bisected by a path (oriented east-to-west). The path connected the parking lot at the end of Wisser Court, ran through the center of the parterre garden feature, and connected to a gate that led to stairs down to Hitchcock Street (on the east end). The parterre beds were edged with thin strips of concrete.

There was a path (oriented north-to-south) that connected to the area above the parterre bed (on its north side) and to the lower terrace (on the south side); a set of stone steps provided connections at either end of the path.

The lower terrace was less formal than the upper terrace and had an unpaved central path. The land on either side of the central path was divided by short paths oriented perpendicular to the central path; this created smaller sections that may been used as garden plots. The central path had a small paved feature at its east end. This paved feature consisted of a concrete path that was laid out to create four small beds surrounded by a low stone seat wall.

The area below (south) of this second terrace was a long slope that does not appear to have had any paths or other spatial organization features.

## Character-Defining Features for the Kobbe Community Garden Area

### Topographic Modifications

- The sloping site was graded to create two long terraces (oriented northeast-to-southwest).
- The north side of the upper terrace is reinforced with a stone retaining wall.
- The south edge of each terrace is graded to create a gently sloped bank.

### Spatial Organization

- A triangular-shaped area defined on the north and east sides by the top of the slope along the south side of Hitchcock Street and on the southwest side by a stand of trees (part of the Presidio forest). A fence encloses the area.
- A series of stone walls, steps, and ramps create a formal garden feature with a path and parterre beds on the upper terrace.
- This garden feature continues on the lower terrace. A central path leads to a small formal (hardscape) feature its east end. Cross paths divide this terrace into a series of plots. (Most of this feature is non-extant.)

### Buildings/Structures

- A greenhouse (non-extant).
- Fence (wood posts with wire mesh) around the perimeter of the site.
- Stone retaining walls, ramps, steps, and octagonal-shaped water feature. The materials and workmanship for these WPA-era stone features are similar to those of the stone walls and curbs along Kobbe Avenue.
- Concrete strips (outlining planting beds in upper terrace).



### Vehicular Circulation

- Narrow single-lane cul-de-sac (Wisser Court) provides access into this area.
- An unpaved parking area located at the east end of the road.

### Pedestrian Circulation

- Series of unpaved paths that are part of the formal garden feature on the upper terrace.
- A central unpaved path on the lower terrace with short unpaved paths oriented perpendicular to the central path that divides the terrace into sections.

### Vegetation Features

- A band of trees and other vegetation define the north side of this area and a stand of trees (part of the Presidio forest) define the southwest edge of this area.
- Upper terrace: Parterre beds with some type of low vegetation and large shrubs or small trees planted in key locations (i.e. in the corners of the parterre beds that surround the water feature in the upper terrace or on either side of the steps on the west side of the parterre bed area).
- Lower terrace: No apparent formal planting (visible in the 1948 aerial photographs). The slope along the south edge of the terrace planted with a row of trees or large shrubs.
- Area below (south) the lower terrace was an open field.
- Row of pollarded sycamore trees along the north side of Wisser Court.

### Integrity of the Character-Defining Features for the Kobbe Community Garden Area

Aerial photographs from 1948 provide the earliest images of the formal garden plan of this area (Presidio Trust 1948) and show a layout that generally corresponds to the features that are visible today. However, in its current condition, the design for the formal garden features is fragmented and no longer provides an organization framework for this area. Portions of the path system are gone, and erosion, the loss of plant materials, and the encroachment of ivy, blackberry, and mattress wire vine have impacted the design.

#### On the upper terrace:

- The parking lot at the west end of the upper terrace remains in place.
- The greenhouse is no longer standing and this area is used as a utility area by the community garden. Because this area is covered with bark chips, it was not possible to determine if there are paths or stone-work features under the bark.
- The design of the formal garden feature on the eastern end of the upper terrace is still evident. The stone features (walls, steps, ramps, octagonal-shaped water feature), the alignment of the paths, and the concrete bed dividers remain in place. However, the water feature no longer works and has been filled with dirt. Neither the paths nor the beds are currently maintained. The ornamental plantings in the beds are missing, and much of this terrace is overgrown with ivy or mattress wire vine.

#### On the lower terrace:

- Much of the layout for the lower terrace has been lost due to erosion or the accumulation of plant debris. The path system that was visible in the 1948 aerial photographs is no longer in place. The western end of the terrace is divided into plots for community garden. However, today there is no central path that

structures the layout of this terrace or the garden plots.

- Portions of the hardscape feature remain at the east end of the terrace. However, due its current condition, it is difficult to determine how much of this formal garden feature actually remains in place. This eastern end of the terrace is overgrown with ivy and mattress wire vine.
- The trees that defined the south edge of this terrace (in the 1948 aerial photograph) are gone.

Children's' play equipment and picnic tables have been added to the area below (south) of the second terrace. This is a compatible land use in the Kobbe Community Garden area.

### Wright Loop

The general officer quarters (No. 1332) and Wright Loop were constructed after the other residential areas on the post. Both were built in 1943 as compensation for quarters that were destroyed during the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. The new residence was sited on a hillside to the south of the Kobbe Avenue officer quarters. This building site and the surrounding yard area were carved out of the Presidio forest so that the trees that remained defined the edges of this area and created a sense of separation between it and the rest of the Kobbe Avenue quarters (to the north) and Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg (to the south). This hillside location provided views to the north of the Bay from both the residence and its parking terrace. The new quarters combined elements from modern architecture with details from the Spanish Colonial Revival style in a way that was compatible with the overall architectural character of the post.





3.4



3.5



3.6



3.7

3.4 Kobbe Avenue, showing WPA era stone walls and stairs.

3.5 Front Lawn and formal approach to Building 1337.

3.6 Rear Alley porches at Kobbe Avenue houses.

3.7 Storey Avenue houses with double street pattern.



## Character-Defining Features of the Wright Loop Area

### Spatial Organization

- Oblong or oval-shaped site whose edges are defined by trees (part of the Presidio forest).
- Sited on a hillside with the front of the residence facing north to provide for views of the bay.

### Topographic Modifications

- The hillside site slopes down from the south to the north.
- Grading to create the alignment for the looped driveway.
- Cut and fill to create two terraces: the upper terrace for the building site and a lower terrace for the parking lot in front of the residence.
- The area in front (north) of parking terrace is graded to form gently sloping lawn.

### Buildings/Structures

- Modern building with details or references to the Spanish Colonial Revival style that is compatible with the overall architectural character of the post.
- Compatibility with the overall building materials for the post: off-white stucco walls with red tile roof.
- Concrete retaining walls reinforce the grade and define space around the residence. The form of the walls repeats and reinforces the horizontal lines of the quarters. Retaining walls are located: along south side of the sidewalk along Wisser Court; around the parking area located next to the west end of the quarters; around the outer edge of the front yard; and around the patio on the front (north) façade of the quarters. The walls in public spaces have a smooth finish. Board form lines are visible in the walls located in less public areas.

### Vehicular Circulation

- Wright Loop is a paved road laid out in an oval-shaped loop that provides a controlled entry experience to and from the residence. Its alignment is a response to the topography of the site.
- Concrete curbs define the edges of the road.
- There is no rear service road, as is the case for the other two residential areas within the CLA study area. However, the public and service areas are still separated. Service functions are located at a paved area on the west end of the quarters. A public or formal parking terrace is located to the north of the residence.

### Pedestrian Circulation

- The connection between Kobbe Avenue (i.e. rest of post) and the residence is provided by a concrete sidewalk along south side of Wright Loop.
- The concrete sidewalk in front of the residence provides a connection and transition between the public sidewalk along Wright Loop and the circulation within the yard.
- Pedestrian circulation clearly delineated by concrete sidewalks along the sides and rear of building. The alignment of these pedestrian paths is linear.

### Vegetation Features

- Stands of trees define the edges of the site and provide privacy.
- Stand of trees are located in the lower (northwest) portion of the space inside the entry road loop. These trees contribute to the entry and exit experience along Wright Loop. The entrance along Wright Loop is under the canopy of the trees. The quarters and its surrounding yard area are open. Likewise the exit along Wright Loop is again under the canopy of the trees. Driving (or walking) under the tree cover heightens the sense of separateness and distance between the Wright Loop Quarters and the rest of the post.

- The planting scheme around the quarters is similar to the Kobbe Avenue quarters. The building is set with an open lawn. Trees are not a prominent feature within the yard. Planting beds reinforce the layout of the pedestrian circulation paths.

## Integrity of the Character-Defining Features for the Wright Loop Area

Changes to the Wright Loop site have been limited and most of the character-defining features listed above remain in place.

The red brick paving for the steps and entrance path to the front of the residence may have been added after the Presidio NHLD's period of significance. This change in materials (from concrete to brick pavers) clearly signals the transition from the public space (and sidewalk) to the private space of the quarters. Additionally, the red brick is compatible with the materials and style of the quarters. (It is similar to that found at the entrance to the Officer Club [No. 1331].)

Portions of the concrete sidewalks around the east end and the rear of the quarters are no longer in place.

The plant materials along the foundation of the residence and the boxwood hedges along the edges of the front yard and the parking terrace may have been added after the Presidio NHLD's period of significance. They are generally compatible with the planting schemes found at other residences on the post (in particular the commanding officer quarters [No. 1337]). However, some of the vegetation is overgrown for its location or in poor condition. For example, the vegetation planted along the outside of the wall around the patio (located at the west end of the front façade) is overgrown and detracts from the horizontal line of the wall. (The low concrete retaining walls repeat and reinforce the horizontal lines of the quarters.) The boxwood hedge along the parking lot is in poor condition, and there are gaps in the hedge.



## Ruckman And Storey Neighborhood

The noncommissioned officer quarters area was one of the original clusters of features (along with the Parade Ground and Kobbe Avenue Quarters) that were developed as part of the 1910 Fort Scott plan. Battery Wagner-Howe, located between Storey and Ruckman avenues, completed in 1895, was the first feature in this area, and the spatial organization of this neighborhood developed around the battery and in response to the sloping terrain of the area. (The battery is described in the discussion for Area 2: The Batteries.)

The noncommissioned officer quarters area was located on the east side of the Parade Ground. It was a distinct area, separated from the Parade Ground and from the officer quarters area (along Kobbe Avenue) and with a separate architectural character. This separation was enhanced by the Presidio forest that surrounded the quarters on the north, east, and south sides.

The quarters were constructed in several phases over a period of 25 years:

- Storey Avenue was built around the same time as Battery Howe-Wagner to provide access to this structure. After the construction of Fort Scott, this road became a major thoroughfare connecting the central portion of Fort Scott with Crissy Field and the Main Post (it continues to provide this function today). The first quarters (Nos. 1261, 1262, 1265, and 1268) were built along the southwest side of this street at its east end in 1909-1910.
- In 1912, three quarters (Nos. 1272, 1273, and 1274) were built that extended this row of quarters to the west along the southwest side of Lower Storey Avenue.
- The third phase of development was in 1921 when a row of



3.8 Storey Avenue

3.9 Upton Street

3.10 Storey Avenue

3.11 Behind Kobbe Avenue houses at Hitchcock Street.





3.12 Community Garden.

3.13 Wooded area north of Storey Avenue.



3.14 WPA era walls and community garden.



3.15 View of entrance pillars. (Cannons were removed at an unknown date)  
New signs obscure the view of the pillars.



three quarters (Nos. 1263, 1266, and 1270) was added to the northeast side of lower Storey Avenue.

- Accommodations for cars were routinely being provided for on Army posts by the late 1910s and early 1920s. Service roads (Appleton Street and Rod Road) were added to the rear of the buildings to provide access to free-standing garages during this time frame.
- After Battery Howe-Wagner was decommissioned in 1920, the quarters were extended around the battery. In 1933, three more quarters (Nos. 1275, 1276, and 1277) were added south of the battery along the south side of Ruckman Avenue.

A group of eight quarters (Nos. 1289, 1290, 1291, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1297, and 1298) was added to the north side of Battery Howe-Wagner, along Upper Storey Avenue in 1933.

- Recreational facilities were in place for the non-commissioned officers by the mid-to-late 1930s. In keeping with standard Army planning procedures, these facilities were located adjacent to the non-commissioned officer housing. A tennis court was located at the east end of Appleton Street. A noncommissioned officer club (No. 1299) was located to the northwest of No. 1298 on upper Storey Avenue (this building, known as the “Log Cabin,” is located in Area 1: The Parade Ground.) A children’s playground was located at Battery Howe-Wagner.

## Character-Defining Features for the Ruckman and Storey Quarters

Although, built over an extended period of time, this group of quarters along Ruckman and Storey avenues has a cohesive character due to a number of shared characteristics and to the repetition of features along the streetscape. Character-defining features for the Ruckman and Storey neighborhood include the following:

### Spatial organization and Buildings/Structures

- The quarters are located a uniform distance from the street and form a row of buildings along each side of the street. This uniform placement results in the spaces between each building being similar. The repetition of features (sidewalks, steps, retaining walls, location of planting beds, facades of buildings) creates visual continuity along the streetscape. The building’s identity is as part of group rather than as an individual feature.
- All of the residences have some details or components of the Spanish Colonial Revival style.
- Buildings are painted off-white and have red tile or red-colored roofs.

### Topographic Modifications

- To accommodate the change in elevation along Lower Storey Avenue, each quarters is set on a level terrace that has slight uniformly-graded slope at the edges. This very subtle manipulation of the topography adds another layer of the repetition of features and is another example of the precise treatment of landscape features in this area that was typical of military installations during the early 20th century.
- Because the slope was less steep along Ruckman Avenue and Upper Storey Avenue, there is simply a continuous grade (no terraces) between the residences.
- Concrete retaining walls and steps accommodate the change in elevation between the front of the residences and the street along Lower Storey Avenue.

## Vehicular Circulation

- There are two paved main roads (Storey and Ruckman avenues) and two secondary or service roads (Appleton and Rod roads).
- The curving alignment of the two main roads was a respond to the site’s topography and to the location of the Battery Howe-Wagner.
- The secondary roads are located to the rear of the quarters and provide access to garages and parking. The alignment of each secondary road is roughly parallel to the row of quarters each serves.
- Lower Storey Avenue is delineated by a concrete curb (edge of the concrete sidewalk) on both sides. Ruckman Avenue is delineated by a concrete curb on its south side. Upper Storey Avenue is delineated by either a concrete curb or concrete gutter on both sides. Appleton Road is delineated by either a concrete gutter or curb along either side; at the east end of the road, there are stone curbs on either side (most likely WPA-era stone work).

## Pedestrian Circulation

- Sidewalks are located along the streets in front of the buildings.
- Pedestrian circulation paths are clearly delineated by the sidewalks that connect the street to the front of each building and continue along the sides and rear of the buildings. The arrangement of all sidewalks is linear.
- Steps are used to connect changes in elevation between the street and the internal sidewalks (both in the front and rear of the residences).
- Concrete is the primary material for pedestrian circulation features.



### Vegetation Features

- Originally stands of trees (part of the Presidio forest) surrounded the quarters on east and south sides and parts of the north side. The trees defined the edges of the non-commissioned officer housing area. Additionally, the trees provided a picturesque setting and sheltered the quarters from the wind.
- The front, side, and back yards for each residence are connected and form a common green space around the buildings.
- Narrow planting beds are located between the sidewalks and the building foundations. Ornamental plantings are generally limited to these foundation plantings.
- Trees are not a prominent feature within the yards.

### Integrity of the Character-Defining Features for the Ruckman and Storey Quarters

Today, the neighborhood located along Ruckman and Storey avenues maintains its remains a distinct district with a cohesive character and is still identifiable as distinct from the Parade Ground and the Kobbe Avenue area. The unaltered arrangement of the quarters buildings, unaltered alignment of the roads, continued presence of the majority of the character-defining features, as well as the absence of the addition of new, non-contributing buildings or structures are all factors in the retention of this identity. The similarity of the basic components within this cluster, the repletion of features, and the orderly layout of circulation paths and planting beds, in addition to contributing to the character of this neighborhood, all represent military planning traditions.

The major changes have been: 1) the construction of Doyle Drive and the Park Presidio (in the 1930s); 2) the addition of the warehouse area (in 1941) along the edges this area; and 3) the removal of most of the surrounding forested area (as a result of the addition of these features). Trees were used at Fort Scott

to define the edges of groupings of buildings and to separate different land uses. Today, Doyle Drive, Park Presidio, and the warehouses define the edges of this area rather than stands of trees, and there is no clear distinction between the housing area (along Ruckman and Storey avenues) and the utilitarian warehouse area. Although these actions were undertaken during the Presidio NHLD's period of significance, the addition of these road structures and warehouse and the loss of trees altered the original design for Fort Scott. The remaining stands of trees along Rod Road and at the east end of Storey Avenue still provide a limited sense of the original feeling of enclosure and seclusion.

The vegetated area at the west end of a garage (No. 1245) along the south side of Appleton Road has been converted to a parking area. The addition of this parking area also contributes to the lack of separation between two the different land uses (housing and utilitarian/service) along Appleton Road.

There have been other more minor changes. At some point after the end of the period of significance, the garages on Rod Road were torn down, and today cars are either parallel-parked along the road or use a small parking lot located at the east end of the road. The children's play ground at Battery Howe-Wagner is gone (this is part of Area 2: The Batteries). The tennis courts at the east end of Appleton Street are now the location of part of the Presidio Trust native plants nursery. None of these changes has altered the character-defining features of this neighborhood.

The Presidio Trust has already undertaken the rehabilitation of the ornamental vegetation features around the quarters. The design of the new or replacement plantings and choice of plant materials were undertaken in a way that is compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics of this area.

### Warehouse Area

The cluster of warehouses (Nos. 1241, 1242, 1243, and 1244) that is located south of the Appleton Street was built in 1941. During the initial construction phase of the post, this sloping hillside was left forested. The trees were removed and the hillside was graded into a series of three terraces (that descend in elevation from west to east) to create level building sites for the warehouses and to accommodate the new internal road system.

### Character-Defining Features for the Warehouse Area

#### Topographic modifications

- World War II era topographic modifications to the site: the three terraces (that descend the hillside) and the graded slopes between the terraces on the west end of the site (between the terrace and Upton Avenue) and along the south side of the site.
- The 1930s topographic modification to create a level area for the noncommissioned officer tennis courts. This level area (currently utilized by the Native Plant Nursery as a lath house) is located at the far southeast corner of the warehouse area and is located west of garage No. 1250.

#### Spatial Organization and Buildings/Structures

- The cluster arrangement of the long, rectangular warehouses (Nos. 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244) oriented in a north-south alignment on the terraces.
- Warehouse are examples of World War II temporary wood-frame construction using standard plans. The utilitarian appearance of these buildings identifies them as a service area. The buildings originally had wood siding. The warehouses are painted off-white and have red-colored roofs, consistent with the treatment of buildings in the other areas of Fort Scott.

- Concrete retaining walls reinforce the slope on the west side of the uppermost/west terrace and the west side of the lowest/east terrace. The retaining wall on the uppermost terrace has a smooth finish, and there is also a set of concrete steps that provide pedestrian access between Upton Avenue (located at the top of the slope) and the terrace (and warehouses No. 1241 and 1242). The lines from the board-forms are visible on the retaining wall along the west side of lowest/east terrace (on the west side of No. 1244). The difference in finishes may have been because the first wall (with the smooth finish) was in a more visible or public location.

### Circulation

- The alignment of the internal road that begins at the west end of Appleton Road and generally parallels the alignment of Appleton Road (going along the north side of the warehouse area, making a turn and continuing along the northeast side of the warehouse site, and connecting into the west end of Schofield Road.
- The location of paved areas around the warehouses. Asphalt-paved areas provide parking, loading areas, and vehicular access to the warehouses and to the native plant nursery and are located: on the east side of Nos. 1241 and 1242 (on the uppermost/west terrace); on the west side of No. 1243 (on the second terrace); and on both sides of No. 1244 (on the third terrace).
- The presence of either concrete gutters or concrete curbs along the edges of the road and the paved areas.
- Concrete steps located on the west side of the uppermost/western terrace (warehouses No. 1241 and 1242) that provide a pedestrian connection between Upton Avenue (and the Parade Ground area) and the warehouses. (This circulation path is no longer actively used.)

### Integrity of the Character-Defining Features for the Warehouse Area

During initial construction phase of the post (1910s), this area was left forested. The sense of enclosure and separation that the stand of trees provided to the non-commissioned officer quarters along Ruckman and Lower Storey avenues was lost when the trees were removed to accommodate the construction of the warehouses. As a result, there is no visual boundary or separation between the residential neighborhood and this warehouse service area. As Loechel et al. noted in their Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Historic Military Landscapes, military installations typically evolve to accommodate changes in mission, and because these changes often happen in response to a crisis, it is not usual to have mixes of land-use areas and unrelated architectural styles (Loechel et al. n.d.: 14). However, at Fort Scott, because the cohesive character the original plan remains largely intact, the impact of this warehouse area is more apparent than might otherwise be the case.

Today, the four rectangular warehouses, its identity as a utilitarian service area and the key character-defining features all remain in place. Three of the warehouses (Nos. 1241, 1242, and 1243) retain their original wood siding.

The presence of the Native Plants Nursery is a non-contributing but compatible land use in this area: 1) the nursery is currently contained within the World War II-era spatial organization and 2) the existing accommodations that have been made for its use are reversible.

## AREA 4

### The Community Center and Dragonfly Creek

Area 4 includes two separate groups of features:

- The Dragonfly Creek ravine and officer recreation area (Community Center) located east of Upton Avenue and
- The Commanding Officer Quarters, located west of Upton Avenue, which overlooks the ravine and Community Center.

#### Dragonfly Creek and the Community Center

Before the construction of Fort Scott, Dragonfly Creek was one of the Presidio's water sources, and there was limited development (a windmill, possibly a well, and an underground reservoir) located here. The slopes of the ravine surrounding the Dragonfly Creek was covered with trees (part of the Presidio forest). On the 1910 plan for the new post, this area was left largely undeveloped to provide a buffer for officer quarters area between the Parade Ground and noncommissioned officer quarters. However, the west end of the ravine was cleared of trees and developed into a recreational area for the officers.

Service clubs and recreational facilities are associated with the growth of the social and cultural amenities that the Army began to provide to military personnel during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By the early 20th century, these facilities were generally included in the military installation planning process. Officers clubs were often located in prominent sites in or near the officer quarters areas. (While non-commissioned officers (NCO) clubs were sited near the non-commissioned officer housing.) The plans for these clubs were not standardized, and they were sometimes located in pre-existing buildings that had originally been built for other uses. When new facilities were built, the clubhouses were generally one-story buildings that reflected contemporary architectural styles from their period of

construction (Goodwin et al. 1995, Vol. II: 60 and 66).

The group of features shown on the 1910 plan were in place by the late 1910s and early 1920s. The focus of this area were the tennis courts (located in the general area of the present-day courts) and a log clubhouse located on the west side of the courts. There was a raised boardwalk that spanned the ravine and connected Kobbe Avenue to the Parade Ground. The area around the courts and clubhouse was leveled and planted with grass. The grass area immediately adjacent to the north side of the courts was more carefully maintained (it appears to have been irrigated and more uniform in appearance than the surrounding groundcover). Trees (mainly Monterey cypress) were planted around the clubhouse and along the slope along the north side of Kobbe Avenue. (A well was shown on the 1910 plan; the plan did not indicate whether this was an existing feature or a proposed decorative feature; no photographs or other information was located on this feature.)

The taller eucalyptus trees, part of the Presidio forest stand, were left uncut on the north side of the ravine and contrasted, in historical photographs of this area, with the evergreens located around the tennis complex. The portion of the Presidio forest north of Kobbe Avenue was also left in place in the area east of the boardwalk. The Board of Officers 1912 memo suggested that the trees in this area "be thinned out to provide a view of the bay and that these trees be cleaned up to form a park grove." The area along the sightlines along the creek were kept open and free of tall trees.

According to the 1993 Presidio NHL update, a new officer club in the Spanish Colonial Revival Style was built in 1921. The use of Spanish Colonial Revival detailing was consistent with the Army's practice of designing clubhouses to reflect





4.1 Lower Dragonfly Creek  
4.2 Parking Lot adjacent to Building 1131.



4.3 Tennis courts and stairs. Stone walls define what were originally an area of formally planted parterres.



Area 4 Photographic Key: photographs illustrate the character defining features and the condition of those features. (images included in this section are not meant to be an exhaustive list of all the character-defining features in this area)





4.4 WPA era stone walls.



4.5 Stone drainage channels.



4.6 WPA era stone walls.

4.7 Twin Palms mark the Dragonfly creek.





contemporary architectural styles. The new building’s stucco exterior, red-tile roof, and use of Spanish Colonial detailing was compatible the overall architectural character of Fort Scott and was decidedly less rustic-looking than the previous log cabin had been. In 1935-1936, the officer club was expanded. Around this time, a drive down to the club (Wool Court) from Upton Avenue and a parking lot (in approximately the same size and shape as the present-day lot) were added. The west slope (along the east side of Upton Avenue) was re-graded into terraces as part of one of the WPA projects in the late 1930s. In 1943, the tennis courts were rebuilt.

During the late 1930s, a system of stone retaining walls, paths, and steps were built: around the tennis court and the clubhouse; up the west slope to connect to Upton Avenue (in front of the Commanding Officer quarters); across the ravine to connect Kobbe and Upton Avenues (this path followed the same alignment as the earlier boardwalk); and up the south slope to connect to parking lots on Kobbe Avenue. The addition of this stonework (that was similar in materials and appearance to that of the Officer Quarters along Kobbe Avenue) reinforced the identity of these facilities as the officer recreation area. One of the WPA projects also added a glass-enclosed porch to the officer club.

**Character-Defining Features for Dragonfly Creek and the Community Center**

**Natural Features**

- Ravine
- Presence of a water source (Dragonfly Creek)

**Spatial Organization**

- Community or recreational features are located within an area that is lower in elevation than the surrounding landscape. The sides of this area are defined by slopes on the west, north, and south sides. These slopes and the surrounding stands of trees create a sense of separateness from the surrounding area and a sense of enclosure within the site.

**Topographic Characteristics and Modifications**

- Grading to create the level construction sites for the clubhouse, the tennis courts, and the bandstand (now the site for the handball court).
- Grading to create terraces on the west side of the site (area between Upton Avenue and parking lot).
- Grading to create the slope or bank along the south side of the site (north of Kobbe Avenue).

**Buildings and Structures**

- Tennis courts
- Wood-frame bandstand; this gazebo-like structure is non-extant.
- Officer club (No. 1331) with Spanish Colonial Revival details, off-white stucco exterior, and red-tile roof.

**Vehicular Circulation**

- Three paved parking lots along the north side of Kobbe Avenue (Kobbe Quarters and Community Center): one at the corner of Kobbe and Upton avenues; one located just east of the steps

and path that lead to the east side of the tennis courts; and one located at the east end of Kobbe Avenue. Stone curbs define the edges of these parking lots.

- Drive (Wool Court) that provides access to the officer club (No. 1331) and its parking lot.

**Pedestrian Circulation**

- System of concrete sidewalks and steps with stone curbs or retaining walls that provide pedestrian connections from the recreational area (located in the ravine) to the surrounding landscape. The materials (stone) and workmanship (WPA-era stonework) used in the retaining walls and curbs are similar to those of the stone walls and curbs along Kobbe Avenue.
1. Path with small footbridge that crosses the ravine and Dragonfly Creek and provides connections between the Kobbe Avenue quarters and Upton Avenue (and the Parade Ground).
  2. Paths located around the tennis courts that provide connections to the parking lot and clubhouse (on the west end of this area) and to other paths.
  3. Paths from the group parking area (at the corner of Kobbe and Upton avenues) down to the recreation facilities.
  4. Path from Upton Avenue down to the parking lot; this path is aligned with the front door of the commanding officer quarters (No. 1337).
  5. Unpaved path with stone curbs located on the terrace on the west side of the parking lot.

**Vegetation Features**

- Trees located along the slopes of the ravine and in the area east of the bandstand area.
- Areas under the trees and around the tennis courts and clubhouse were kept open and free of undergrowth or understory vegetation. The ground plane was planted with low growing vegetation or grass.



- Two palms located east of the footbridge (these trees frame the view along the creek/riparian area) and two palms located on the east side of the tennis court.

### **Integrity of the Character-Defining Features for Dragonfly Creek and the Community Center**

Today, the character-defining features remain in place. However, much of the area's slopes, riparian corridor along Dragonfly Creek, and the beds alongside the formal paths are now overgrown with ivy, blackberry, mattress wire vine, and other vegetation. This vegetation also obscures the topography (slopes and terraces) of the area, and overall, the landscape surrounding the clubhouse and tennis courts is less open than during the period of significance. Some of the stonework and concrete sidewalks and steps are in poor condition due to weathering and/or poor repairs. Brick paving has been added to the entrance area on the east side of the clubhouse and has replaced a portion of the concrete sidewalk in this area. The level area below (east) of the tennis courts has been paved with asphalt and currently has some type of wood practice-board; the bandstand is no longer extant; redwood trees have also been planted around this paved court.

### **Commanding Officer Quarters**

The general location of the commanding officer quarters (No. 1337) on Upton Avenue was shown on the Constructing Quartermaster's January 1910 and January 1911 plans, but this residence was not constructed until 1915. The residence for the post's commanding officer Area was set within a parcel of land located between the Headquarters Building (to the north)

and the office quarters (to the south). The building's classically-derived architectural elements and detailing, red brick exterior, and red-colored hip roof were similar in appearance to the row of officer quarters along Kobbe Avenue. However, the location of this building, within a clearly defined and separate parcel of land, provided a separation from the officer quarters and represented the hierarchy of housing that was typical on Army posts.

The topography in this area sloped down from west to east, and the site was graded to create a level terrace on the west side and a sloping yard on the east; the transition between these two areas was a sloped bank. The quarters was located at the east edge of the terrace facing east overlooking the ravine (Dragonfly Creek) where the new officer recreation area (with the officer club and tennis courts) was located. Originally, the residence may have had a view of the Bay to the distance.

As in other locations on the post, trees (that were part of the Presidio forest) originally covered the site. The eastern portion of the site (the yard area below the upper terrace) and immediately around and behind the building site was cleared. The trees on both sides of the new quarters were left uncut so that they formed two flanking arms, in a 45-degree angle, that framed the building. The trees also provided a buffer between the commanding officer quarters and the brick ordnance repair shop (No. 1339) located on Kobbe Avenue at the southwest corner of the site.

Sometime in the late 1910s or early 1920s, a driveway was added to the backyard of the quarters (connecting at Kobbe Avenue and Greenough Avenue). (A comparison of aerial photographs from the mid-to-late 1930s and late 1940s show fewer trees here; although the symmetry of the trees flanking the front was still evident). Trees were also removed immediately

north of the house in the late 1930s when stone retaining walls were added (during one of the WPA projects).

During the late 1930s, a garage (No. 1341) was added to the rear of the property (at Greenough Avenue). Stonework was also added by one of the various WPA projects during this period: stone pillars marking the sides of the entrance to the driveway (along Kobbe Avenue) and to create stone retaining walls to create a patio area on the north side of the residence.

### **Character-Defining Features for the Commanding Officer Quarters**

#### **Spatial Organization**

- Building located in the central area of a site defined by the Fort Scott Road system: Ralston Avenue (north side), Upton Avenue (east side), Kobbe Avenue (south side), and Greenough Avenue (west side).
- Division of the site into an upper terrace (on the western portion of the site) and sloping lawn (on the eastern portion). The residence is sited on the east edge of the terrace overlooking the Dragonfly Creek ravine.

#### **Topographic Modifications**

- Grading to create an upper terrace and sloping lawn.
- Uniform slope of bank that connects the upper terrace and sloping lawn.

#### **Pedestrian Circulation**

- Use of concrete as the primary material.
- Sidewalk along the east edge of the site along Upton Avenue (that provides a connection between the officer quarters on Kobbe Avenue and the Parade Ground).
- Two parallel sidewalks that lead from the Upton Avenue sidewalk to the front of the residence.



**4.8** Stone walls and stairs



**4.9** Stone walls define what were originally formal planting areas.

- Sidewalks around the sides and rear of the residence.
- A sidewalk from east side of property that connects to the circular sidewalk in the northeast corner of the site.
- A circular sidewalk feature at the northeast corner of the site that provides connections to commanding officer quarters, Upton Avenue sidewalk, and the Headquarters Building.

### Stone Features

- Stone pillars marking the sides of the entrance to the driveway (along Kobbe Avenue)
- Stone retaining walls define a patio area on the north side of the residence.
- The materials and workmanship (stone and WPA era stonework) used in the pillars and retaining walls are similar to those of the stone walls and curbs along Kobbe Avenue.

### Vegetation Features

- Trees located in stands to the north and south of the residence. These two stands create two flanking arms, in a 45-degree angle, that framed the building.
- Grass lawn across the front of the quarters.
- Row of date palms along the east and north edges of the site. (The palms only extend half way along the north side because originally there was a structure that covered a parking lot located along the remaining portion of this edge of the property. Today, the parking lot remains but the structure that covered it has been torn down.)
- Foundation planting beds located in the space between the sidewalks around the building and the foundation of the quarters.
- Mexican fan palm tree located in the middle of the circular sidewalk at the northeast corner of the property.

### Integrity of the Character-Defining Features at the Commanding Officer Quarters

Today, although the key character-defining features remain in place, there have been some changes to the landscape.

Fewer trees remain in the areas to the north and south of the residence, and these two stands no longer have the clearly defined presence that originally framed either side of the commanding officer quarters.

The ornamental planting beds around the residence and along the sides of the yard appear to have been added or planted after the end of the Presidio NHL period of significance, and curvilinear planting beds have been added outside of the narrow linear bed area around the foundation of the building.

A fence (lattice wood) has been added along the north side of the property (between the garage and the ordnance repair shop) to address present-day privacy and security needs (control access to the backyard area).





# treatment recommendations





# treatment recommendations

This chapter provides treatment recommendations for the character-defining features identified in the previous chapter. The treatment recommendations are based on the goals established in the PTMP and follow the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines.



# The Presidio Trust Management Plan

In the *Presidio Trust Management Plan (PTMP)*, Fort Scott is envisioned as a contemplative retreat in which Fort Scott’s “rich collection of historic buildings and designed landscape” will be managed in a manner that retains the district’s contemplative setting. Preferred uses at Fort Scott will include educational and conference facilities as well as lodging, housing, and support services. The PTMP’s strategy for achieving these goals at Fort Scott includes the following components:

- Restoring the Parade Ground and reestablishing it as the district’s main gathering place.
- Rehabilitating historic buildings with respect to their setting and historic cluster arrangement.
- Rehabilitating historic gardens and landscape features.
- Preserving and enhancing Dragonfly Creek and other natural resources in the area.
- Preserving and interpreting for visitors the historic batteries and coastal defense structures.
- Simplifying the road system and enhancing pedestrian connections to adjacent areas.
- Ensuring that any new construction is sited and configured to be compatible with the historic district.

In accordance with these PTMP goals, the treatment recommendations for Fort Scott’s cultural landscape are based on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

# The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation

*The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (Secretary’s Standards) provide the common language and a consistent framework for preservation practices. The Secretary’s Standards define four management strategies or treatments: preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and rehabilitation. Preservation, restoration, and reconstruction emphasize the maintenance of a property’s appearance and condition during a particular historical period. Rehabilitation assumes that there have been and will be changes and provides guidance to allow for a compatible contemporary use of the property through alterations and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values (NPS 2007a and b).

The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation:

- Provide guidelines for incorporating a contemporary use of the property while preserving the portions and features of the property which are significant.
- Focus attention on the preservation of those materials, features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships that, together, give a property its historic character.
- Emphasize the retention and repair of historic materials but provides more latitude for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated (than that of a property requiring only preservation).
- Provide guidance for the replacement of extensively deteriorated, damaged, or missing features using either traditional or substitute materials.

# Standards for Rehabilitation

The Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation consist of ten principles that should guide all planning and treatment for the Fort Scott cultural landscape:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in a such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired (NPS 2007).

## Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

In addition to these general principles, the Secretary's Standards provide detailed guidelines to address the unique characteristics of cultural landscapes (i.e. ones that are not addressed or required for the treatment for buildings and structures) in The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (NPS 1996) (Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes). These Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes should be consulted for guidance when questions arise that have not been specifically addressed in this CLA.

## Rehabilitation Guidelines for Historic Buildings

The Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation Standards & Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings. (NPS 1995) (Rehabilitation Guidelines for Historic Buildings) is a companion publication for historic buildings. This publication provides guidance specific to historic buildings and structures. Guidelines for Rehabilitating Buildings at the Presidio of San Francisco (Architectural Resources Group 1995) is a version of these guidelines that is specific to the Presidio NHL. The guidance related to exterior materials is pertinent to the rehabilitation of the Fort Scott cultural landscape.

## General Guidance for Plant Materials

Only a limited amount of primary source material was found during the preparation of this CLA that provided information on the ornamental plant species used at Fort Scott.

Replacement of deteriorated plant materials or the addition of new vegetation should be compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics described in the "List of Character-Defining Features" for each area.

Specific species should be chosen from the Presidio Trust's "List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes." This list consists of a variety of planting (including trees, shrubs, and groundcovers) that:

- Were historically used within the Presidio NHL or
- Have been used subsequent to the historic periods of significance but maintain the character of the designed landscapes found within the Presidio.

This list also takes into consideration:

- Sustainability goals such as being low maintenance, long-lives, drought tolerant (once established) and resistance to common pests and diseases and
- The protection of native plant species or plant communities and the threats from potential cross-pollination, hybridization, or invasive tendencies.

## Reference Documents For Rehabilitation At Fort Scott

The following documents or information should be consulted for general guidance related to treatment recommendations in this CLA:

- The *Presidio Trust Management Plan: Land Use Policies for Area B of the Presidio of San Francisco* (PTMP) (Presidio Trust 2002).
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (NPS 2007).
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (NPS 1996).
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation Standards & Illustrated Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings* (NPS 1995) and *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Buildings at the Presidio of San Francisco* (Architectural Resources Group 1995).
- The *Presidio of San Francisco, Vegetation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*. (VMP) (Presidio Trust 2001) including Appendix C with Plant List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes, Plant List 2: Conditional-Use Plants in Designed Landscapes, and Plant List 3: Restricted-Use Plants in Designed Landscapes.
- The *Seacoast Fortifications Preservation Manual* (NPS 1999).



# AREA 1

## The Parade Ground and Barracks

The Parade Ground planning area includes the horseshoe-shaped area defined by Ralston and Upton avenues as well as the area located between Storey Avenue (at the north end of the Parade Ground) and Doyle Drive. Fort Scott's two major open spaces (the Parade Ground and the Drill Field), its administrative functions, the housing for enlisted men, and various support or service functions were located in this area.

The three major components of the 1910 plan the Parade Ground, the row of buildings around the perimeter of the Parade Ground, and the circulation system remain in place and provide the framework for the spatial organization of this area. The continuing presence of these critical features provides the opportunity for the rehabilitation of the Parade Ground cultural landscape. However, changes to the circulation and vegetation features and additions of new features (not in the original plan) have altered the design and intent of the 1910 plan.

The alignment of the roads and pedestrian paths are critical to the spatial organization of the Parade Ground area and where these remain unaltered, the clarity or legibility of the cultural landscape generally remains intact. Conversely, the area with the greatest challenges (along Ralston and Upton avenues east of the Parade Ground) is where the original circulation alignment and features have been altered. Here the formally-planned design and interaction of the landscape, sidewalks, and roads now appears to be an ad-hoc landscape dominated by parking. Pavement has been added to the sides of roads and around and between buildings to provide additional areas for parking. In general where asphalt has been added, vegetation has been removed. The original clarity of the circulation routes and the distinction between the pedestrian and vehicular environments are less evident today. The increased domi-

nance of pavement has altered the character of the Parade Ground area and has resulted in the loss of the landscape setting around the buildings on Upton Avenue.

The planting scheme of the Parade Ground and around the barracks is no longer apparent. Some areas that were originally lawn grass are now paved over; this has occurred in the areas between the barracks. The distinction between the ground plane of the Parade Ground and that around the barracks and Headquarters Building has disappeared. (The condition of the lawns has also contributed to this lack of distinction). Today, most of the cordylines around the edge of the Parade Ground are gone, and the ones that remain are in poor condition and near the end of their life span. Only remnants of the foundation plantings around the Parade Ground buildings remain in place, and the foundation treatment varies from building to building. The remaining plants do not have the appearance of a deliberate design and do contribute to the uniform appearance that was part of the Parade Ground's historic image (and an expression of the Army's value of order in the landscape).

Fort Scott's original connection to the bluffs and its orientation toward the bay are no longer apparent and have all practice purposes been permanently altered. Doyle Drive separated the post from the bluffs to the north and ended the role of this geographical feature in delineating the north end of the post. The presence of Doyle Drive blocked the original views from the Parade Ground to the bay and severed the visual connection to it and the Golden Gate. The trees that were planted along the south side of this structure were planted to screen views of Doyle Drive but now frame the north end of this area (much as the Presidio forest does on the south end).





The addition of the recreational complex at the north end of the Parade Ground has added non-contributing features to this highly visible area. These features clutter and truncate the views along the Parade Ground's north-south axis, and the bathroom structure (No. 1286) is located directly on the axis/sightline with the front of the Headquarters Building.

During World War II, war-related facilities were added to the area north of Storey Avenue. These included: a theater (No. 13870, a chapel (No. 1389), and a nursery (No. 1390). These buildings remain in place today and are examples of World War II temporary, wood-frame construction. The appearance of these buildings does not relate to the architectural character of the Parade Ground; nor does the arrangement of this group of buildings (and the related paved areas) relate to the original spatial organization of the Parade Ground. However, due to their location on the north side of Storey Avenue and the sloping topography of this area, this group of World War II buildings is not visible from the Parade Ground, and this limits the direct impact of this area on the Parade Ground.

The Log Cabin (No. 1299) is located at the eastern edge of this area, north of Storey Avenue. However, its location does not impact the original spatial organization of the Parade Ground area.

See pages 78-83 for a list of the character-defining features for the Parade Ground and Barracks area.

See pages 84-89 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and the treatment issues for the Parade Ground and Barracks area.

### **Recommendation 1:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Parade Grounds and Barracks area.

### **Recommendation 2:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.

### **Recommendation 3:**

Assess the condition of the character-defining concrete features (such as steps, walks, curbs, and gutters) and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

### **Recommendation 4:**

Rehabilitate the circulation features to restore the historic character-defining characteristics.

- 4.1 To the extent possible (given current health and safety standards), remove the additions of pavement along Ralston and Upton avenues. These additions include areas where the roads have been widened and areas where the landscape setting around buildings have been removed and paved.
- 4.2 Remove the segment of the sidewalk, aligned at a 45-degree angle, that connects to the east side of the basketball court area; this sidewalk no longer serves the purpose it was built for and is an anomaly to the historic pedestrian circulation system.
- 4.3 Rehabilitate the stone curb at the Log Cabin.
- 4.4 At Buildings facing the Parade Ground, maintain the historic condition of primary building access facing the Parade Ground, with secondary access on other elevations.

### **Recommendation 5:**

Rehabilitate the vegetation features at the Parade Ground, following the guidelines in the VMP and based on the information on character-defining features and materials in this CLA.

- 5.1 Conduct research to determine if there is additional historical, pictorial, and/or physical documentation for the Parade Ground that could guide the rehabilitation decisions.
- 5.2 Assess the condition of the trees on the Parade Ground and based on the arborist's report, undertake measures to protect and maintain the trees. If the majority of the cordylines are recommended for removal (which is possible since they appear to be in poor condition), then consideration should be given to replacing all of the trees to maintain a consistent appearance and size.
- 5.3 Rehabilitate Parade Ground turf area. Either through the selection of ground cover vegetation and/or maintenance, re-establish the distinction between the groundplane around the Parade Ground and that surrounding the barracks.
- 5.4 Remove the pavement between the barracks and re-establish the lawn areas. If removing these parking areas is not feasible, then the paved area should be reduced. At a minimum undertake the following: the paved area that is next to the Parade Ground should be removed (at least to or beyond the alignment of the barracks) and the lawn areas should be re-established. This would partially restore the landscape setting between the barracks and would restore a continuous area of grass around the edge of the Parade Ground.
- 5.5 Remove the remnant foundation plantings around the Barracks and Headquarters Building. Establish a comprehensive planting criteria and plant palette that is compatible with the historic character-defining vegetation features and materials. The plant palette should be developed using the Presidio Trust's "List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes."



**Recommendation 6:**

Rehabilitate key small-scale features at the Parade Ground.

- 6.1 Repair the concrete medallion located in the south end of the Parade Ground and replace the flag pole that was historically located in front (north) of the headquarters building.
- 6.2 Remove the variety of non-contributing small scale features located around the Parade Ground (i.e. signage, lighting, etc.).
- 6.3 Establish signage, lighting, and site furnishings guidelines, as required, that are compatible with the historic character of Fort Scott.

**Recommendation 7:**

Remove the asphalt paving from the triangular-shaped area that is defined by Lincoln Boulevard, Storey Avenue, and the north side of Barracks No. 1208. Develop a planting plan or criteria that is appropriate for this major entrance into the post. The plant palette should be developed using the Presidio Trust’s “List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes.”

**Recommendation 8:**

Reinforce the important open feeling at the north end of the Parade Ground by removing non-contributing features that obscure the original character and feeling. The Recreation facilities at the north end of the Parade Ground have a negative impact on the integrity of this area, and thier impact could be reduced by the following reccommendations.

- 8.1 Remove the bathroom facility (No. 1286), basketball court pavement, and the associated fencing; restore the original grade to this portion of the Parade Ground; and re-establish turf in this area.
- 8.2 Assess the lighting needs at the baseball field and explore ways to minimize the visual presence of lighting, through better design and location of fixtures, or throught the removal of light standards.

- 8.3 Consider the relocation of the basketball courts to another location such as the area north of Storey Avenue or at the Community Center (Area 4).

**Recommendation 9:**

Consider using the area north of Storey Avenue to accomodate new or relocated features or land uses, if required. Storey Avenue provides a clear boundary between the Parade Ground and the area north of Storey. Also vegetation and changes in the grade in the area north of Storey Avenue can be used to shield these new land uses or structures from views from the Parade Ground.

## AREA 2

### The Batteries (Saffold, Dynamite and Howe Wagner)

There are three batteries within the study area for the Fort Scott Cultural Landscape Assessment: Battery Howe-Wagner, Battery Saffold, and Battery Dynamite. Area 2 includes the land surrounding these batteries:

- Battery Howe-Wagner is located to the east of the north end of the Parade Ground, and the area around the battery is defined by the roads that surround the battery (Battery Wagner Road, Ruckman Avenue, and Upton Avenue).
- For Batteries Saffold and Dynamite (both located on the west side of the Parade Ground), this area is defined by the Ralston Avenue, Greenough Avenue, Kobbe Avenue, and Lincoln Boulevard.

#### Battery Howe-Wagner

Battery Howe-Wagner (No. 1287), located between Storey and Ruckman avenues, was completed in 1895 and was an active part of the San Francisco seacoast defense system from 1895 to 1920. The battery was built in the shape of a cross with four pits, each of which contained four, breech-loading, 12-inch mortars and had typical Endicott Battery features: the importance of its location in relation to its function, a concrete structure, protective earthen berms, a paved road into the battery, and use of vegetation to maintain the slope of the berm and later to provide camouflage.

The battery's mortars were removed in 1920, and after that date, the battery was used as a storage area or left vacant. After the end of the period of significance (post-1945), three of Battery Howe-Wagner's four pits (Battery Howe's pit B and Battery Wagner's pits C and D) were covered with dirt to create a hill over the battery, and trees now cover most of this hill. The integrity of Battery Howe-Wagner has been compromised. To-

day, the battery more closely resembles a natural feature rather than a man-made one. This makes it difficult to understand the battery's function within the seacoast fortification system.

The remaining Monterey cypress trees, located around the perimeter of the battery, are a distinctive vegetation feature at Fort Scott and continue to define the edge of the battery. Additionally, because this row of trees contrasts with the irregular, natural-looking grove of pine trees that now covers the battery, they are a visual clue to the presence of the battery. However, the effectiveness of the Monterey cypress to provide this distinction is threatened by any future loss of individual trees and by the fact that the remaining Monterey cypress trees are nearing the end of their lifespan. There are gaps in the row of Monterey cypress trees and it no longer completely encircles the battery: all of the trees along the west side of the battery are gone; the eastern half of the row of trees on the north side is gone; and the row of trees along the south side consists of two groups of trees with noticeable gaps at both ends and in the middle. The loss of these trees has occurred since the end of the Presidio NHL's period of significance (1945).

See pages 90-92 for the common character-defining features for Endicott Batteries.

See pages 92-93 for a list of the character-defining features for Battery Howe-Wagner.

See pages 93-94 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues at Battery Howe-Wagner.





### Recommendation 1:

Assess the opportunities for interpretation related to Battery Howe-Wagner based on its design and function within the sea-coast fortification system.

The battery was the only cruciform mortar battery within the San Francisco Seacoast Fortification system. Also, Battery Howe-Wagner differed from Battery Saffold (the other Endicott battery within the CLA study area): it had mortars rather than guns and so had a different design and function within the fortification system.

### Recommendation 2:

Assess the issues related to the rehabilitation of Battery Howe-Wagner involving the restoration of the pits, the cruciform earthworks, and the internal road system.

### Recommendation 3:

If the restoration of the pits, cruciform earthworks, and internal road system is not feasible, the following rehabilitation steps should be undertaken:

- 3.1 Remove the stand of trees on top of the battery.
- 3.2 Rehabilitate the slope and plant a compatible turf or ground-cover. Follow the guidance in the VMP for this new vegetation and select the turf or groundcover from the Presidio Trust's List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes.
- 3.3 Remove the garage (No. 1285) in Pit A so that this remaining pit may be interpreted.
- 3.4 Assess the condition of the remaining battery structure in order to determine the level of intervention or treatment that is required to protect and maintain this feature. Take rehabilitation measures, as required.

### Recommendation 4:

Assess the health and condition of the remaining Monterey cypress trees in the row around the battery. Based on the arborist's report, develop a plan for the rehabilitation of this row of trees.

- 4.1 Protect and maintain the existing trees.
- 4.2 Replant missing trees including the ones on the west side.
- 4.3 Remove paving or any other structures on the west side of the battery that prevent the re-establishment of this section of the row.

## Battery Saffold

Battery Saffold (No. 1354), located between Lincoln Boulevard and Greenough Avenue, was completed in 1898 and shares some of the same characteristics as Battery Wagner-Howe: the importance of its location in relation to its function, a concrete structure, protective earthen berms, a paved road into the battery, and the use of vegetation to maintain the slope of the berm and later to provide camouflage. Battery Saffold's guns were declared obsolete and removed in 1943, and since then the battery has been used for storage or vacant.

Although its key character-defining features remain in place (concrete structure, earth berm, and road), there have been critical changes to these features. The northern half of Battery Saffold Road has been absorbed into the non-historic paved service yard that is located between Battery Saffold and Battery Dynamite. During the period of significance, Battery Saffold was a visible structure and topographic feature within Fort Scott's cultural landscape. Today, eucalyptus, Monterey cypress trees, and other vegetation obscure the battery (both the con-

crete structure and its protective earthen berm). The growth of the vegetation to the west of the battery (including in areas to the west that are outside of the study area for this CLA) and on the west-side berm blocks the sightlines between the battery and ocean and limits the understanding of the battery's function within the seacoast fortification system.

See pages 90-92 for the common character-defining features for Endicott Batteries.

See pages 94-96 for a list of the character-defining features for Battery Saffold.

See pages 96-98 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues at Battery Saffold.

### Recommendation 5:

Assess the opportunities for the interpretation of Battery Saffold related to its design and function within the San Francisco Seacoast Fortification system, and in relation to its unique guns (capable of being rotated 360 degrees).

### Recommendation 6:

Assess the issues related to the rehabilitation of Battery Saffold (based on its interpretive potential).

### Recommendation 7:

Assess the condition of the battery's reinforced concrete structure, earthworks, and road in order to determine the level of intervention or treatment that is required to protect and maintain these features. Take rehabilitation measures, as required.

**Recommendation 8:**

Undertake a systematic program to remove ivy, mattress wire vine, and other invasive vegetation from the battery's earthworks and in the surrounding area. Replant with a compatible groundcover (selected from List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes).

**Recommendation 9:**

Remove the trees that are currently growing on the earthworks, in the area immediately around the battery (to the north, east, and south), and from the area west of the battery (along the original sight lines for the guns).

**Battery Dynamite**

Battery Dynamite, complete in 1895, was built to test an experimental gun that used compressed air to fire charges of dynamite. The battery's guns and their related machinery were removed in 1904 after the battery was declared obsolete in 1901. The battery shared certain character-defining features with the Fort Scott Endicott batteries: its need to be located within proximity of the coastline, the use of reinforced concrete as the primary structural material, protective earthen berms, and a roadway designed to provide access to the battery.

Battery Dynamite was originally a distinct feature within Fort Scott's cultural landscape. However, the battery's earthworks are currently covered by trees and other vegetation, and the battery is no longer easily identifiable.

See pages 98-99 for a list of the character-defining features for Battery Dynamite.

See pages 98-99 for a more detailed discussion on the current

condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues at Battery Dynamite.

**Recommendation 10:**

Assess the opportunities for interpretation of Battery Dynamite related to its design and function within the San Francisco Seacoast Fortification system (i.e. as the Harbor Defense Command Post/Harbor Entrance Command Post) and in relation to its experimental guns.

**Recommendation 11:**

Assess the issues related to rehabilitation of Battery Dynamite (based on its interpretive potential and in relation to new uses).

**Recommendation 12:**

Assess the condition of the battery's reinforced concrete structure concrete structure, retaining walls, and powerhouse and earthworks to determine the level of intervention or treatment that is required to protect and maintain these features. Take rehabilitation measures, as required.

**Recommendation 13:**

Undertake a systematic program to remove ivy, mattress wire vine, and other invasive vegetation from the battery's earthworks and in the surrounding area. Replant with a compatible groundcover (selected from List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes).

**Recommendation 14:**

Remove the trees that are currently growing on the earthworks and in the original sight lines for the guns (west side of the battery).

**Other Features Within Area 2**

Also within Area 2 are the following:

- A group of industrial structures located adjacent to the south side of Battery Dynamite,
- The indoor shooting range (No. 1369) located just north of Battery Dynamite, and
- The Bachelor Officer Quarters (BEQ) (No. 1347) located at the corner of Greenough Avenue and Kobbe Avenue.

See pages 98-99 for a discussion of the character-defining, the current condition of the character-defining features, and the treatment issues at Battery Dynamite.

**Recommendation 15:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials.

**Recommendation 16:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.

**Recommendation 17:**

Undertake a systematic program to remove ivy, mattress wire vine, and other invasive vegetation. Replant with a compatible groundcover (selected from List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes).

**Recommendation 18:**

Rehabilitate Presidio forest located in this area, per VMP recommendations.

**Recommendation 19:**

Consider removing any structures in the industrial area for which there are no compatible uses or for which rehabilitation is not feasible.

**Recommendation 20:**

Consider removing the indoor shooting range (No. 1369) and the BEQ (No. 1347) if there are no compatible uses or if rehabilitation is not feasible.

**Recommendation 21:**

Remove the expanse of pavement on the west side of the industrial area, and restore the original alignments of Battery Saffold and Battery Dynamite roads.

**Recommendation 22:**

Remove the graveled parking area that is located north of the indoor shooting range (No. 1369) and return this area to turf or another compatible groundcover. Remove the graveled parking area located along Kobbé Avenue, south of the BEQ (No. 1347) and return this area to forest.

**Recommendation 23:**

Protect and maintain the concrete gutters located along the side of Kobbé Avenue and Greenough Avenue.



## AREA 3

### The Residential Neighborhood

Area 3 includes three separate groups of features:

- The first is the Kobbe Avenue neighborhood that includes: Kobbe Avenue and the associated officer quarters; Hitchcock Street and the garages for the officer quarters; Wright Loop and a general officer family quarters; and Wisser Court and the Community Garden area.
- The second residential neighborhood is located along Ruckman and Storey avenues and includes: Storey Avenue and Ruckman Avenue; their associated quarters and garages; and two service roads S Appleton Street and Rod Road.
- The third group is the World War II-era warehouse area where the Recycling and Salvage Center and the Native Plant Nursery are located.

Recommendations for each of these groups of features is provided below.

#### Kobbe Officer Quarters

The Kobbe Officer Quarters area was one of the original clusters of features developed as part of the 1910 Fort Scott plan. Today, this area remains a distinct neighborhood and its cohesive character remains largely altered. The unaltered arrangement of the quarters buildings, unaltered alignment of the roads, continued presence of the majority of the character-defining features, as well as the absence of the addition of new, non-contributing buildings or structures are all factors in the retention of this identity. The similarity of the basic components within this cluster, the repletion of features, and the orderly layout of circulation paths and planting beds, in addition to contributing to the character of this neighborhood, all represent military planning traditions.

Other than the addition of the Park Presidio viaduct at the edge of the neighborhood, the changes that have occurred within this area have been limited:

- The ornaments and signage have been removed from the two concrete pillars that flank Kobbe Avenue at its intersection with Park Boulevard. Today, only the concrete bases remain in place.
- Along Hitchcock Street, there have been alterations to features that have the potential to cumulatively alter the uniform character of this streetscape.
- The Presidio Trust has already undertaken the rehabilitation of the ornamental vegetation features around the quarters. The design of the new or replacement plantings and choice of plant materials were undertaken in a way that is compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics of this area.

See pages 102-103 for a list of the character-defining features for the Kobbe Officer Quarters.

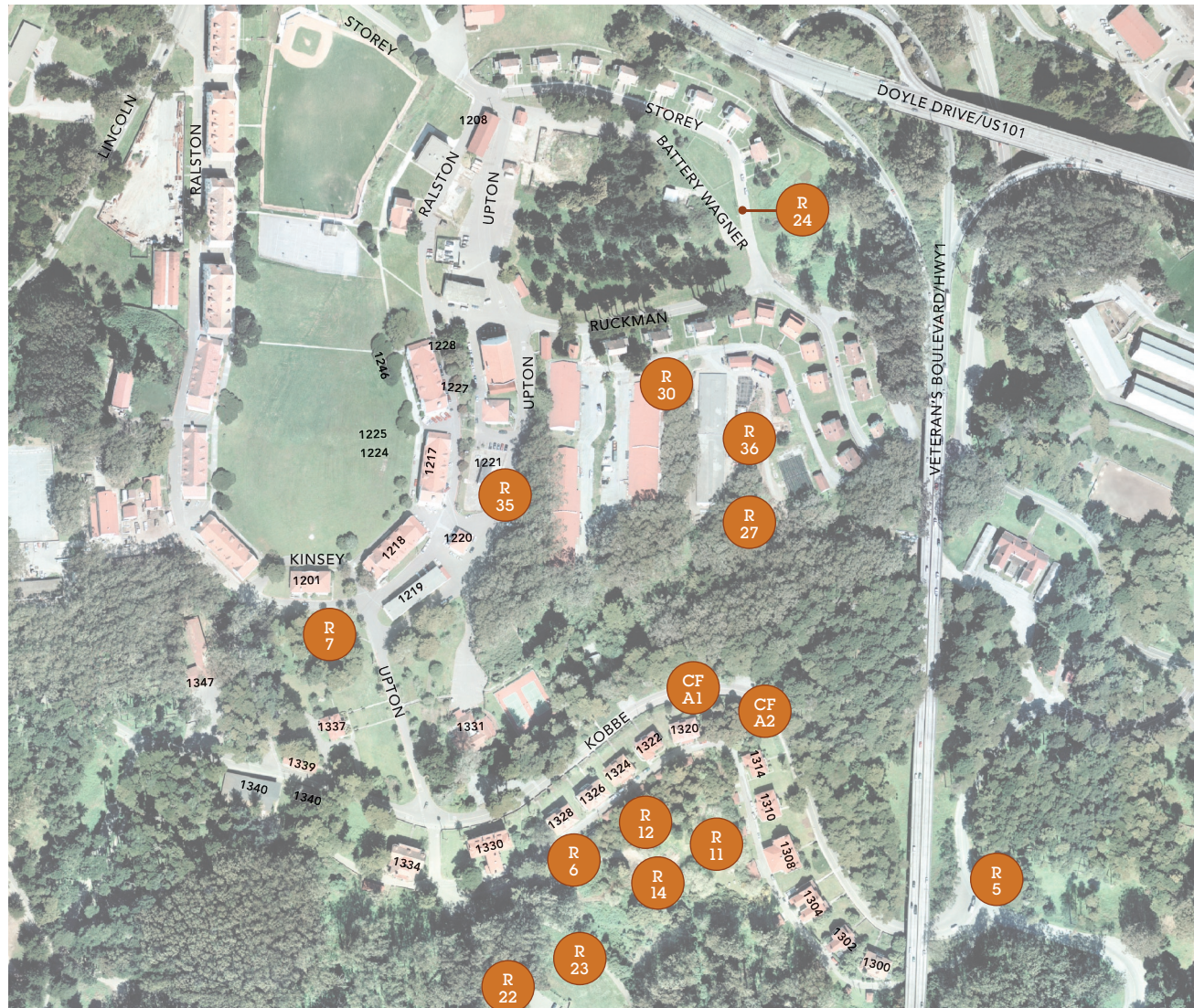
See pages 103-106 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues at the Kobbe Officer Quarters.

#### Recommendation 1:

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Kobbe Officer Quarters Area.

#### Recommendation 2:

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.



Area 3 Treatment Recommendations

 Recommendations



**Recommendation 3:**

Assess the condition of the historic concrete features (such as steps, walks, curbs, and gutters) and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

**Recommendation 4:**

Assess the condition of the WPA-era stone features and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

**Recommendation 5:**

Rehabilitate the two concrete pillars that flank Kobbe Avenue at its intersection with Park Boulevard. The missing ornaments and signage should be replaced using information that is available from historical photographs. If possible, restore cannons or reproductions of cannons to the pillars. Reduce visual clutter by relocating signage so as not to obscure pillars, and by restoring the historic landscape configuration of simple lawn panels around the pillars. (see page 55 photographs.)

**Recommendation 6:**

Assess the need and carrying capacity for parking along Hitchcock Street. The design for any parking accommodations should be undertaken so that the narrow viewshed along Hitchcock Street, the uniform character of its streetscape, and the topography along the south side of the street are protected and maintained.

**Recommendation 7:**

Assess the need for new pedestrian circulation paths or features based on the current use patterns. The design for any alterations to the pedestrian circulation system or curbing at the rear of the quarters (to accommodate new parking or circulation

patterns) should be compatible with the characteristics of the historic system (uniform use of materials and linear alignment of paths) and should be compatible with the preservation of these historic characteristics.

**Recommendation 8:**

The Presidio Trust has already undertaken the rehabilitation of the ornamental vegetation features around the quarters. The design of the new or replacement plantings and choice of plant materials were undertaken in a way that is compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics of this area.

1. Replace deteriorated plant materials or add new vegetation based on this rehabilitation planting scheme and in a manner that is compatible with the historic character-defining vegetation characteristics.
2. Select plant materials from the Presidio Trust’s List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes.

**Kobbe Community Garden Area**

This area may have been the location for the plant nursery that was established after the construction of Fort Scott (although it is not labeled as such on any source reviewed for this report). It is clear from reviewing plans and aerial photographs that some sort of development occurred in this area prior to the construction of a formal garden feature in 1938-39 by the WPA. The aerial photographs from 1948 provide the earliest images of the formal garden plan of this area (Presidio Trust 1948) and show a layout that generally corresponds to the features that are visible today.

In its current condition, the design for the formal garden features is fragmented and no longer provides an organization

framework for this area. Portions of the path system are gone, and erosion, the loss of plant materials, and the encroachment of ivy, blackberry, and mattress wire vine have impacted the design. Some of the hardscape features (stone walls, steps, ramps, and octagonal raised bed and concrete bed dividers) remain in place but are in poor condition and some are missing.

See pages 107-108 for a list of the character-defining features for the Kobbe Community Garden area.

See pages 108-109 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues in the Kobbe Community Garden area.

**Recommendation 9:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Community Garden area.

**Recommendation 10:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior’s Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.

**Recommendation 11:**

Assess the condition of the WPA-era stone features (retaining walls, steps, ramps, etc.) and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

**Recommendation 12:**

Undertake a systematic program to remove ivy, blackberry, mattress wire vine, and other encroaching vegetation from the two terraces.



### **Recommendation 13:**

Conduct further research to determine if additional historical, pictorial, and/or physical documentation exists for this area that could guide the rehabilitation decisions.

### **Recommendation 14:**

Rehabilitate the formal garden feature in the upper terrace. Unless further research uncovers additional information, use the 1948 aerial photograph as a basis for this rehabilitation. Repair the stone walls, steps, ramps, and octagonal-shaped water feature, as required. Rehabilitate the paths and the planting beds. Rehabilitate the graded slope along the south side of the upper terrace. Move the community gardens' work space from the west end of this terrace so that the formal features may be extended to connect to the parking lot.

### **Recommendation 15:**

Rehabilitate the lower terrace for use by the community gardens. Restore the central path that provided the spatial framework for the lower terrace. The community garden plots should be reconfigured along either side of this central path. Repair and/or rehabilitate, as required, the ornamental hard-scape feature located at the east end of this terrace. Restore the path (oriented north-to-south) that provided a connection across the east end of the lower terrace. Design a new, compatible set of steps to provide a connection to the playground (to the south). (The steps on the north side, that connect to the upper terrace, are extant.)

### **Recommendation 16:**

Create a more definitive entry into the east side of the playground from Hitchcock Street.

### **Recommendation 17:**

No primary source material was found during the preparation of this CLA that describes the ornamental plant species used in the parterre planting beds or in the other areas within the two terraces. If additional research does not provide this information, replace deteriorated plant materials or add new vegetation in a manner that is compatible with the historic character-defining vegetation characteristics. Select plant materials from the Presidio Trust's List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes.

## **Wright Loop**

The general officer quarters (No. 1332) and Wright Loop were constructed after the other residential areas on the post. Both were built in 1943 as compensation for quarters that were destroyed during the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. The new quarters combines elements from modern architecture with details from the Spanish Colonial Revival style in a way that is compatible with the overall architectural character of the post. This building site and surrounding yard area were carved out of the Presidio forest, and the remaining trees define the edges of this area and created a sense of separation between it and the Kobbe Avenue quarters (to the north) and Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg (to the south). This hillside location provides views to the north of the Bay from both the residence and its parking terrace.

Most of the character-defining features remain in place, and changes in this area have been limited. Portions of the concrete sidewalks around the east end and the rear of the quarters are no longer in place. Additionally, some vegetation is overgrown for its location or in poor condition. For example, the vegeta-

tion planted along the outside of the wall around the patio (located at the west end of the front façade) is overgrown and detracts from the horizontal line of the wall. (The low concrete retaining walls repeat and reinforce the horizontal lines of the quarters.) The boxwood hedge along the parking lot is in poor condition, and there are gaps in the hedge. Also depending on the height of the hedge, the hedge has the potential to block views.

See pages 108-110 for a list of the character-defining features for the Wright Loop area.

See page 110 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues in the Wright Loop area.

### **Recommendation 18:**

Conduct further research to determine if additional historical, pictorial, and/or physical documentation exists for this area that can guide treatment.

### **Recommendation 19:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Wright Loop area.

### **Recommendation 20:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken.

### **Recommendation 21:**

Assess the condition of the historic concrete features (such as retaining walls, walks, steps, curbs, etc.) and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

#### Recommendation 22:

Design new, compatible circulation paths around the east end and the rear of the residence that will define circulation paths and the location of foundation beds.

#### Recommendation 23:

Rehabilitate the planting beds and vegetation features around the quarters and the parking terrace. Replace deteriorated plant materials or add new vegetation features in a manner that is compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics. Select plant materials from the Presidio Trust's List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes. Review the Presidio Trust's rehabilitation plans for the Kobbe Avenue quarters for applicability to this area.

### Ruckman and Storey Neighborhood

The noncommissioned officer quarters area (the Ruckman and Storey neighborhood) was one of the original clusters of features (along with the Parade Ground and Kobbe Officer Quarters) that were developed as part of the 1910 Fort Scott plan. Today, this neighborhood located along Ruckman and Storey avenues retains its cohesive character and is still identifiable as distinct from the Parade Ground and the Kobbe Avenue areas. The unaltered arrangement of the quarters buildings, the unaltered alignment of the roads, the continued presence of the majority of the character-defining features are all factors in the retention of this identity. The similarity of the basic components within this cluster, the repletion of features, and the orderly layout of circulation paths and planting beds, in addition to contributing to the character of this neighborhood, all represent military planning traditions.

The major changes have been: 1) the construction of Doyle Drive and the Park Presidio (in the 1930s); 2) the addition of the warehouse area (in 1941) along the edges this area; and 3) the removal of most of the surrounding forested area (as a result of the addition of these features). Trees were used at Fort Scott to define the edges of groupings of buildings and to separate different land uses. Today, Doyle Drive, Park Presidio, and the warehouses define the edges of this area rather than stands of trees, and there is no clear distinction between the housing area (along Ruckman and Storey avenues) and the utilitarian warehouse area. Although these actions were undertaken during the Presidio NHL's period of significance, the addition of these road structures and warehouse and the loss of trees altered the original design for Fort Scott. The remaining stands of trees along Rod Road and at the east end of Storey Avenue still provide a limited sense of the original feeling of enclosure and seclusion.

More recently, the vegetated area at the west end of a garage (No. 1245) along the south side of Appleton Road has been converted to a parking area. The addition of this parking area also contributes to the lack of separation between two the different land uses (housing and utilitarian/service) along Appleton Road.

See pages 111-113 for a list of the character-defining features for the Ruckman and Storey neighborhood.

See page 114 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues in the Ruckman and Storey neighborhood.

**Recommendation 24:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Ruckman and Storey neighborhood.

**Recommendation 25:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.

**Recommendation 26:**

Assess the condition of the historic concrete features (such as retaining walls, steps, walks, curbs, and gutters) and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

**Recommendation 27:**

Assess the condition of the WPA-era stone features (stone curbs at the east end of Appleton Avenue) and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

**Recommendation 28:**

Assess the condition of the portions of the Presidio forest located at the north and east edges of this area and protect, maintain, or rehabilitate based on the recommendations in the VMP.

**Recommendation 29:**

The Presidio Trust has already undertaken the rehabilitation of the ornamental vegetation features around the residences. The design of the new or replacement plantings and choice of plant materials were undertaken in a way that is compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics of this area.

1. Replace deteriorated plant materials or add new vegetation based on this rehabilitation planting scheme and in a manner that is compatible with the historic character-defining vegetation characteristics.
2. Select plant materials from the Presidio Trust's List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes.

**Recommendation 30:**

Remove the pavement and re-establish a planting bed on the west side of No. 1245. Remove the pavement and re-establish a planting bed on the west side of No. 1246; this would help to re-define the entrance into the warehouse area.

**Recommendation 31:**

Develop a planting plan that re-establishes a vegetative buffer along the south side of Appleton Road that will create a clearer visual separation between the housing area along Ruckman and Storey Avenues and the warehouse area. Selected vegetation from the Presidio Trust's List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes. Locations for this new vegetation feature should include: 1) the west side of No. 1245; 2) the east side of No. 1245; 3) the west side of No. 1246; 4) the area between No. 1247 and No. 1248; and 5) the area between No. 1248 and No. 1250.

**Warehouse Area**

The cluster of warehouses (Nos. 1241, 1242, 1243, and 1244) that is located south of the Appleton Street was built in 1941. During the initial construction phase at Fort Scott, in the 1910s, this sloping hillside was left forested. Trees were removed and the hillside was graded into a series of three terraces (that descend in elevation from west to east) to create level building sites for these World War II warehouses and to accommodate a new internal road system. Today, the four rectangular warehouses remain in place, and the identity as a utilitarian service area and the key character-defining features remain in place.

As noted in the previous section's recommendations for the Ruckman and Storey neighborhood, there has been a loss of the visual boundary and the separation between the residential neighborhood to the north and this service area as a result of the removal of the trees from the warehouse area in 1941.

See pages 114-115 for a list of the character-defining features for the Warehouse Area.

See page 115 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues in the Warehouse Area.

**Recommendation 32:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Warehouse Area.

**Recommendation 33:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be



## AREA 4

### The Community Center and Dragonfly Creek

undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.

#### Recommendation 34:

Assess the condition of the historic concrete features (such as retaining walls, steps, curbs, and gutters) and treat, as required, to protect and maintain.

#### Recommendation 35:

Maintain and protect the vegetation buffer along Upton Avenue that separates the Warehouse Area from the Parade Ground.

#### Recommendation 36:

The presence of the Native Plants Nursery is a non-contributing but compatible land use in this area. For the foreseeable future, the nursery will remain at the World War II Warehouse area. In order to protect historic character-defining features, the following limitations should be observed:

1. The nursery should be accommodated within the historic character-defining spatial organization, topography, and circulation. For example, new structures (such as lath houses) should be located within the existing open areas surrounding the warehouses.
2. Any alterations or new structures related to the nursery should be compatible with the preservation of the character-defining features and characteristics.
3. Any alterations or new structures related to the nursery should be reversible. If they should be undertaken in a manner that, if removed in the future, the historic character-defining features and characteristics would be unimpaired.

Area 4 includes two separate groups of features:

- The Dragonfly Creek ravine and recreation area (Community Center) located east of Upton Avenue and
- The Commanding Officer Quarters, located west of Upton Avenue, which overlooks the ravine and the Community Center.

Recommendations for both of these groups of features is provided below.

### Dragonfly Creek and the Community Center

Today, the character-defining features for this area remain in place, however, much of the area (slopes, riparian corridor along Dragonfly Creek, and the beds alongside the formal paths) is now overgrown with ivy, blackberry, mattress wire vine, and other vegetation. This vegetation also obscures the topography (slopes and terraces) of the area, and overall, the landscape surrounding the clubhouse and tennis courts is less open than during the period of significance. Some of the stonework and concrete sidewalks and steps are in poor condition due to weathering and/or poor repairs. The bandstand is no longer extant, and the only remaining evidence of this structure is the level area located east of the tennis courts. An asphalt-paved court and some type of wood practice-board (non-contributing features to the Presidio NHL) have been added to this level area. This area appears to be unused and may provide the opportunity for the addition of compatible recreational land uses or structures.

See pages 116-119 for a list of the character-defining features for Dragonfly Creek and the Community Center area.



Area 4 Treatment Recommendations



Recommendations

See page 120 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues for Dragonfly Creek and the Community Center area.

**Recommendation 1:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Dragonfly Creek and Community Center area.

**Recommendation 2:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior’s Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.

**Recommendation 3:**

Assess the condition of the pedestrian circulation features (concrete walks and steps, stone curbs and walls, and brick paving). Undertake measures to protect, maintain, and repair, as required.

**Recommendation 4:**

Assess the condition of the trees. Based on the arborist’s assessment, undertake measures to protect and maintain significant trees. Replace significant trees that must be replaced due to age or condition. Base this rehabilitation program on the recommendations in the VMP.

**Recommendation 5:**

Undertake a systematic program to remove ivy, blackberry, mattress wire vine, and other encroaching vegetation from the slopes and from the beds alongside the formal paths.

**Recommendation 6:**

Dragonfly Creek is identified in the PTMP as a riparian resources restoration site. The Presidio Trust is currently removing trees and other vegetation along the stream corridor as part of this restoration, and this project will result in the removal of the overgrown vegetation in this portion of the site. As part of this program:

1. Protect the cultural resources within this stream corridor restoration, including the two palm trees. The stone footbridge, raised walkway, and stone walls defining the planting beds.
2. Restore the view from the commanding officer quarters along the stream corridor.

**Recommendation 7:**

Develop planting guidelines to re-establish a landscape on the slopes and around the formal paths that emphasizes an open understory with the ground plane planted with low-growing vegetation. Select plant materials from the Presidio Trust’s List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes. The vegetation and character in the ornamental landscape should be distinct from that of the natural resources area along the Dragonfly Creek stream corridor.

**Recommendation 8:**

Conduct further research to determine if additional historical, pictorial, and/or physical documentation exists for this area that could guide treatment decisions. (For example, the date when the brick paving was added to the area around the clubhouse. Or, the only known image of the non-extant bandstand is a partial view in a ca.1920s photograph, and at present there is not enough information to guide a reconstruction of this structure, if one were desired.)

**Recommendation 9**

Determine if there is a need for the handball court. If there is, then undertake repairs, as necessary. If not, remove the court and consider using this area for the addition of new compatible recreational land uses or structures.

**Commanding Officer Quarters**

The general location of the commanding officer quarters (No. 1337) on Upton Avenue was part of the 1910 plan for the post, but this residence was not constructed until 1915. The building’s classically-derived architectural elements and detailing, red brick exterior, and red-colored hip roof are similar in appearance to the row of officer quarters along Kobbe Avenue. However, the location of this building, within a clearly defined and separate parcel of land, separated it from the officer quarters and represented the hierarchy of housing that was typical on Army posts. Overall, this area retains its historic character. However, there are treatment issues related to the character-defining features.

Fewer trees remain in the areas to the north and south of the residence, these two stands no longer have the clearly defined presence that originally framed either side of the commanding officer quarters.

The ornamental planting beds around the residence and along the sides of the yard appear to have been added or planted after the end of the Presidio NHL period of significance, and curvilinear planting beds have been added outside of the narrow linear bed area around the foundation of the building.

In some places the concrete for the sidewalks is damaged due to settling or upheaval.



Additionally, the northeast corner of the site, with the circular concrete sidewalk feature and palm, does not appear to be maintained.

See pages 120-121 for a list of the character-defining features for the Commanding Officer Quarters area.

See page 121 for a more detailed discussion on the current condition of the character-defining features and treatment issues for the Commanding Officer Quarters area.

#### **Recommendation 8:**

Protect and maintain the character-defining features, characteristics, and materials within the Commanding Officer Quarters area.

#### **Recommendation 9:**

Repair deteriorated character-defining features and materials, as required. If the level of deterioration or damage precludes repair, then replacement of the feature or material should be undertaken in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation standards and guidelines.

#### **Recommendation 10:**

Assess the condition of the historic concrete features (i.e. concrete walks, steps, curbs, and gutters) Undertake measures to protect, maintain, and repair, as required.

#### **Recommendation 11:**

Assess the condition of the WPA-era stone work (i.e. pillars on either side of the driveway, curbs, and walls). Undertake measures to protect, maintain, and repair, as required.

#### **Recommendation 12:**

Assess the condition of the trees. Based on the arborist's assessment, undertake measures to protect and maintain significant trees. Replace significant trees that must be replaced due to age or condition. Base this rehabilitation program on the recommendations in the VMP.

#### **Recommendation 13:**

Rehabilitate the planting beds and ornamental vegetation features. Replace deteriorated plant materials or add new vegetation features in a manner that is compatible with the historic vegetation characteristics. Select plant materials from the Presidio Trust's List 1: Plants for Consideration in Designed Landscapes. Review the Presidio Trust's rehabilitation plans for the Kobbe Avenue quarters for applicability to this area.

#### **Recommendation 14:**

Rehabilitate the circulation feature at the northeast corner of the site (the circular concrete sidewalk and the fan palm).



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## SMWM

Andrew Wolfram, Project Director  
David Schellinger, Graphic Design

## CMG

Willett Moss, Principal-in-Charge

## Denise Bradley, Landscape Historian

Denise Bradley

## Presidio Trust

Chandler McCoy, Project Manager  
Ric Borjes  
Michael Lamb

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